Welcome to New Students

Welcome to the 2016 school year after what I hope has been a refreshing break for all our students, staff and families alike. We begin what is an historic and exciting year for TAS with almost 100 new students and, as would be expected, growth in our secondary enrolments and boarding overall. With 40 girls settled in Middle and Senior School, including 15 boarders, full co-education at TAS is now a reality and the positive mood surrounding that is a credit to our students and staff alike.

I am pleased to report that the building works in both White and Dangar were completed in time for the arrival of our new students. Both of these major projects were undertaken on very tight timelines and their completion on schedule is a credit to Rice Constructions who were responsible for White House and our own maintenance and housekeeping teams who worked through the holiday season on both Dangar House and the White House fit-out. Work is now continuing on the Year 12 Student Centre and the new boarding furniture for all senior houses and I look forward to bringing further news of those developments.

2015 HSC and the Academic Year Ahead

I imagine that most parents have now seen the report on the 2015 HSC in the most recent edition of Binghi. Accolades have rightly been directed to our highest achieving students, including dux Ali Ahsan (99.75), Josh Stevenson (99.2) and Sebastian Gibson (98.05) and I echo the congratulations to them. 2015 was the seventh consecutive year that TAS students were named on the ‘All Rounders’ list for students who gain Band 6s across their best 10 units of study, with Ali and Josh being the only students in the New England and North West region to receive that honour in 2015. Having students consistently achieve ATARs above 99 and named on the All Rounders list is not commonplace in our region and it reflects an academic environment at TAS that sets high expectations and offers the support to achieve them. For that, our teaching and support staff deserve to share in the satisfaction of these results.
Beyond the highest achievers, the 2015 cohort also impressed with more students achieving Band 5s and 6s than we have seen in recent years and it was also very pleasing to see the creative performances of our students recognised once again with nominations and selections in the HSC showcases for Music, Drama and Visual Arts. A great deal of commitment is needed to create a fine HSC result and I again congratulate all those who gave their best last year.

Holiday Activities

Over the holiday break a good number of students, staff and parents were involved in a range of activities, both here and away, and the reports from them have been pleasing to hear. These have included the rehearsal week for Bye Bye Birdie, the Independent Schools’ Cricket Festival hosted this year by TAS, the junior cricket tour to Queensland, rowing regattas and camps in Grafton and Taree, the Forensic Science Management Camp and the annual mountain bike camp led by the chaplaincy team. Creating opportunities like this, particularly during school holidays, requires a special level of commitment and I offer thanks and congratulations to all involved in making those activities possible.

Welcome to New Teachers

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

Mrs Rebekkah Baumgartner joins an expanded Music Department in 2016. As I commented at Speech Day, there has been a boom in the Creative Arts in 2015 and the impact of this is being seen in the classroom as well as co-curricular activities. Expansion in student numbers has allowed the splitting of previously combined senior classes and this has increased the teaching required. Bekk completed her B.Mus at ANU and Dip Ed at ACU and is now resident in Armidale. She will be known to a good number of TAS families both as a current Junior School parent and through her work with the TAS Junior Band and as a peripatetic teacher with NECOM.

Mr Cameron Patrick joins the PDHPE department and the chaplaincy team in 2016, taking up a part-time teaching load in PDHPE and replacing Mrs Benham as Assistant Chaplain during her maternity leave. Since finishing his HSC at TAS in 2008, Cameron has completed a Bachelor of Education in Human Movement and Health Education at Sydney University in and a Graduate Diploma of Divinity at Sydney Missionary and Bible College in 2015.

Miss Phoebe Wood joins the Junior School staff to teach the Year 4 class this year. Phoebe completed her internship with Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon last year and has most recently been teaching at Gunnedah South Public School. She is a local to Armidale and was educated at NEGS and UNE, graduating recently with outstanding results in her Bachelor of Education.

Mr Michael Holland takes up the new senior position of Director Boarding with responsibility for the oversight and coordination of boarding across the School. With the growth in boarding this year and the introduction of our first girls’ house, we have been able to expand our resources for the benefit of all our boarders. Our aim is to promote boarding interests by providing an additional layer of support for Heads of House, parents and students, whilst bringing boarding strategy and issues to Executive discussions. Michael has most recently been the Director of Boarding and Rudd Housemaster at Brisbane Boys’ College. Prior to this he held positions as Director of Boarding and Head of Senior Hall at Guildford Grammar School in Perth, Gibney Boarding House Director at Aquinas College in Perth, Head of Trinity House at Whitsunday Anglican School in Queensland and residential supervisor at Nudgee College. He comes to us with a total of 20 years of boarding experience across five schools. Michael is an experienced senior English and History teacher and a keen rugby coach and he joins us with his wife Julie and young daughter Lucy.

Miss Alexandra Pollitt joins us as Girls’ Education Director, a new senior position created to assist in driving the development of TAS co-educational programs. Her role description is broad and includes responsibilities as Head of Dangar House, the pastoral care of all girls and driving the development of strategies and practices for girls’ education through the School Executive. This position is not a usual one in co-educational schools and its creation represents our commitment to ensuring that the introduction of coeducation at TAS is well lead and managed. Alex has most recently been a Year Coordinator at Flinders Christian College in Victoria. Prior to that she held positions at Camberwell Girls’ Grammar School in Melbourne, St Cyprian’s School in Cape Town and St Philip’s College in Alice Springs, with responsibilities that have ranged from leadership in boarding to social justice coordinator, pastoral care for year groups and Round Square leadership. Alex has also had some time out or teaching as a program manager for High Resolves, a Melbourne based organisation presenting global citizenship and leadership development programs to a wide range of schools. Alex joins the English Department and is living in the Dangar House residence.

We also welcome two new GAP students this term; David Jeavons who completed his HSC at Trinity Grammar last year and will be our Chapel Gappie this year and Terrence Kandiado from Zimbabwe who will be with us shortly.

In other staff news, I am sure that all will join in congratulating Ali and David Drain on the arrival of Wilbur Charles Drain on 7 January.
Information and Communications Technology Review (ICT)

The ICT strategic review conducted late last year will result in a number of changes to our ICT operations this year. The most significant of those is a change to the way that much of our ICT services are structured and managed. As a result, Mr Martin Levins has taken a voluntary redundancy and I take this opportunity to offer thanks to him for his very significant contributions to TAS over 31 years at the School, both in his leadership of ICT from its very beginnings to a wide involvement in the life of the School through Pioneers, parent and son weekends, teaching, the Development Office and as a member of the School Executive.

We are currently in the process of recruiting a new non-teaching ICT manager who will lead the delivery of ICT services across the School.

Changes to the Outdoor Activities Program in 2016

Several developments have been incorporated into the Outdoor Activities Program this year as we seek to develop and enhance this central and significant part of TAS life. The most significant change is that the compulsory cadet program will move to Years 8 to 10 from 2017 and Year 7 will become Rangers this year. The Rangers program will present all the challenge that Year 7s have experienced in cadets in the past, but without the cadet leadership structure. By making this change we aim to better prepare our newest students for the cadet program and finally align the TAS cadet structure with the expectations of the Australian Army Cadets which only recognises and supports cadets from Year 8. This will also mean that our future cadet leaders will begin their training a year older and we will be able to further develop the adventurous nature of the program in Year 10.

Whilst Pioneers will operate for Year 10 in 2016, from next year it will change to Expeditions as a Year 11 option alongside cadets, surf lifesaving and rural fire service. The Expeditions Program will be designed to meet the expeditions requirement of the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Gold level. It is our ambition to promote the Duke of Edinburgh Award further at TAS and there will be expedition opportunities for students in the other Year 11 activities to ensure they have the same access to the Award. The Year 6 program has been renamed as ‘Bush Skills’, but has not been changed otherwise.

Further detail on arrangements for Activities in all year groups will be provided in the coming weeks.

Year 12 Study Arrangements

As explained to Year 12s last week, changes have been made to expectations of students during their study periods. The past practice of allowing Year 12 students to arrive at school late and leave school early or return to boarding houses if they have morning or afternoon study periods will not continue this year. In the interests of supporting our senior students to use their study time to their best advantage, all students will be expected on campus from Period 1 to 7 and to be using their time well. As Year 12 students they will have some flexibility in terms of where they study though. After signing in at the library they will be able to use their Common Room (and the Year 12 Student Centre when it is ready later this term), the general purpose meeting room for group work and, with approval from their teachers, the drama, art and music spaces. This change is being supported by additional tutoring during the times that large number of students are not in class and students will be able to use the Fitness Centre in the gym once staffing for that has been arranged.

Student Leadership

With the strong enrolment of girls in Middle and Senior School, and recognising the contribution of our pioneering Year 12 girls who started last term, it is only right that our student leadership team reflects the makeup of our school population. I am looking forward to announcing key appointments in this regard at Assembly next Tuesday.

Mr Murray Guest
Headmaster
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Week 2

**Wednesday 3 February**  
Junior School Photos  
5.30pm Year 1,3 and 5 Parent Information Evening

**Thursday 4 February**  
Middle and Senior School Photos

**Friday 5 February**  
6pm Junior School Welcome Barbecue

**Saturday 6 February**  
Coast Weekend

### Week 3

**Monday 8 February**  
200m IM Swim Events

**Tuesday 9 February**  
Junior School Swimming Carnival

**Wednesday 10 February**  
P&F Meeting

**Thursday 11 February**  
Middle School Parent Information Evening  
200m Swim Events and War Crys

**Friday 12 February**  
Middle and Senior Swimming Carnival

**Saturday 13 February**  
Cadet Leadership Course

**Sunday 14 February**  
Cadet Leadership Course

### Week 4

**Tuesday 16 February**  
Brent Sanders Presentation Year 11

**Friday 19 February**  
Activities Day 1  
Liaison Parent Lunch (12.30pm)

**Saturday 20 February**  
Sydney Rowing Club Regatta

### Week 5

**Monday 22 February**  
Scholarship & Co-ed Expo Day

**Friday 26 February**  
Activities Day 2

### Week 6

**Monday 29 February - Friday 4 March**  
Year 12 Primary Industries Work Placement

**Tuesday 1 March**  
NCIS Swimming (Lismore)

**Wednesday 2 March**  
Summer Sports and Group Photos

**Thursday 3 March**  
Year 6 & Parent Teacher Interviews (2-6pm)  
CIS Football Knockout (Bishop Druitt, Coffs Harbour)

**Friday 4 March**  
Year 6 & Parent Teacher Interviews (2-6pm)

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### School photographs

Please click [HERE](#) to read important information about school ID photos.

If you have not received an order form via email and wish to place an order, please contact MSP Photographers direct on 6772 3519.

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

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

• Junior School Swimming Championships – Tuesday 9 February
• Middle/Senior Swimming Championships – Friday 12 February
• Junior Athletics Championships – Tuesday 22 March
• Middle/Senior Athletics Championships – Wednesday 23 March
and, of course, the
• TAS Rugby Carnival in April.

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

Our first call to action is the Junior School Swimming Championship followed closely by the Senior School Championships. The P&F will be holding our traditional cake stall at both events and would appreciate any and all donations of yummy snacks for the students to buy and boost their energy! Home-made or store bought – we welcome all donations!!

Please send your donation to the P&F stall just near the pool. If you have a little time to spare, we would love a little assistance too. Just drop me a line at suecart@uow.edu.au

Term 1 Meeting

Our meetings for Term 1 have been set and the first will take place on Wednesday next week – 10 February at 7pm in the Lower Maxwell Room. All Parents and Friends of TAS are welcome and if you live further afield, why not consider skyping in? Contact me if you would like to give this a try.

Annual General Meeting

Due to so much activity in Term 1, it was decided to delay the Annual General Meeting until the first meeting in Term 2. So please pop it in your Diary - Wednesday 11 May. Perhaps you might like to consider joining our Executive. All positions will be declared vacant and all members are invited to stand for election. The AGM will be followed by a General Meeting to get the P&F year started anew.

Liaison Parents

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

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

We will be having a Welcome Lunch for all Liaison Parents on Friday 19 February – more details to come.

Mrs Sue Cartwright
At other times I have mentioned the word ‘adaptation’. It is a word that is very relevant in the context of change in our lives. There is a period of adaptation when we leave school to go to further education. Expectations that students will be independent learners, self-reliant, disciplined, well-grounded in their lifestyle and so on, brings about a significant process of adaptation to an entirely different learning culture. Likewise, a change of school, moving from primary to secondary school takes a period of adaptation. Becoming a boarder involves adaptation. And so it goes on right through our lives. TAS is now co-educational and for everyone – staff, students, parents, there is a period of adaptation. Change has been initiated and this requires adaptation to all the new and different things that are occurring as well as the conservation of all that is good about TAS that we are keen to continue.

So, looking at adaptation there are two dynamics involved:

1. Assimilation. This is our effort to fit changes to existing moulds and patterns that existed before the change. This is the process of chunking down change into known categories and processes, finding out if they will fit into the known. It is the attempt to conserve and continue the known.

2. Accommodation. This is the process that occurs when change defies assimilation, when the degree of change requires new ways of thinking and responding. It happens when new things don’t fit old moulds and we need to develop new attitudes and structures that make room for the change.

Both assimilation and accommodation occur in the process of adaptation. Adaptation is a positive and creative process, something that is to be embraced. The dual process of assimilation and accommodation simply represent the rhythms, oscillations and pendulum swings that are involved in adaptation to change.

The challenges of change are energising here at TAS and everyone is looking for a positive transition that has creative adaptation at its centre. How are you going? If you feel like a chat about your experience of change, please contact me or other staff involved in pastoral care.

Mr Rob Hadfield
School Counsellor
Violet, Stella, Adeline, Emmett, Silas, Hudson – these are the names of 2015, in fact those six are the most popular boys and girls names for new borns 2015.

But what names really will be remembered from 2015?

Well according to Forbes Magazine’s best earners list of 2015 it will be:

Boxer, Floyd Mayweather, $300M
Boxer, Manny Pacquiao, $160M
Katy Perry, $135M
One Direction, $130M

Ronaldo, Taylor Swift, Jackie Chan, Messi – all up there for top earners in 2015.

If you go for people who hit the headlines you would have to think Jarrod Hayne, or perhaps the ousted Prime Minister Tony Abbott and that onion.

But what about 2016? Are you thinking your name will appear in lights? Will it be Green House again taking out the swimming carnival, no sorry that wasn’t Green, we simply had the best two academic results… Ali and Josh were Green House - the sort of results that will gain you a career. Whose name will it be 2016? Whose name should it be?

It’s AD 2016. So what? AD Anno Domini is Medieval Latin, which means In the Year of the Lord but is often translated as In the Year of our Lord. Big name involved – Jesus. It means that this is the 2016th year since the Lord Jesus reigned as the resurrected victor. We have to come to terms with the fact that even our date points us to Jesus; there is something foundational in every year, the Lord Jesus reigns.

You may have noticed that there are some who would encourage the use of C.E., signifying the common era, what is the date in this Common Era? 2016. What is common in our era, the Jew’s date this year is 5776; the Muslim’s date this year is 1437 and it is the Chinese Year of the Monkey. The Common Era dating system is based on the dating from… Jesus. It is still the same. CE ends up being a bit of a nonsense.

At The Armidale School, if we leave the name of Jesus out, it makes a nonsense of who we are. We have sung of Jesus being our sure foundation. We have read of the supremacy of love – of course this is the love that Jesus and only Jesus demonstrated.

This is 2016, this is TAS, let us acknowledge Jesus, let Him set our agenda, as we have heard clearly in the reading – the need to love, selflessly and without bound, as the Lord loved us. Let this steal the headlines of 2016.
Start of the Year

We start 2016 off the back of excellent HSC results for the students of the 2015 Year 12 cohort. Particular mention goes to our two students Ali and Josh who received ATARs over 99 - what a great achievement! However, what pleases me the most is the large number of students who achieved higher results than they expected. More students received ATARs in the 70s and 80s than in previous years as well as more students lifting themselves out of the lower ATAR brackets. My congratulations to all and my thanks to the staff and families who supported them along the way.

It will be a busy year again at TAS and all students are encouraged to balance their academic, co-curricular and social commitments. We have begun the much anticipated Stage 5 electives and I look forward to reviewing this program at various points throughout the year. This program has been designed by the teaching staff and I thank them for their continued support in making this work for the students in our care. I look forward to hearing from students with suggestions of courses that we may add in 2017.

Class Placement and Subject Changes

A number of families have had queries about the placement of their child in the core subjects (English, Maths, Science and HSIE). With the high number of new enrolments in the senior school, the respective Coordinator of the subject is working hard to assess students and there may be movement in the next fortnight. If you have any queries about your child’s placement in one of the core subjects please contact your child’s advisor or the subject Coordinator directly.

Ms Julie Flanagan - English (jflanaga@as.edu.au)
Mr David Toakley - HSIE (dtoakley@as.edu.au)
Ms Amanda Robins - Mathematics (arobins@as.edu.au)
Mr Tim Wheaton - Science (twheaton@as.edu.au)

Students wishing to change Stage 5 electives can write to me directly (swark@as.edu.au) requesting a change. This would need to be settled by the end of this week at the latest as subjects will have completed introductions to their courses and will be well underway. Not all changes are possible due to classes already being full, however, I will do my best to accommodate students where possible.

Students in Year 11 who are re-considering their subject choices are encouraged to see me as soon as possible. An email outlining the issues would be useful, however, all students should speak with me directly. These changes will not be allowed to occur without parent/carer permission.
Organisation

Students in Year 6-10 and their parents/carers should now have received a copy of the homework timetable for the start of the year. This is a guide only and created to assist students in their organisation and parents in knowing what their child should be working on each evening. We know that some students will take longer to do a task whilst others will complete tasks in a shorter amount of time. Students who have worked for the required length of time on a task are able to get a parent or boarding house staff to sign their diary to indicate to the class teacher that they have been working on the task as required. Students who have continued problems completing tasks should speak with their class teacher or advisor so that tasks can be adjusted accordingly.

Students have all received a school diary and it is an expectation of the school that they take it to all classes and assembly and use it to write in their prep.

Year 12 Activities Program

Activities Days for Year 12 students will see various presenters from Sydney come to TAS this year. The idea is to have our students access the resources that many students in Sydney are able to access. Our first Activities Day sees a presenter from Elevate Education come to TAS to work with students on their memory techniques and exam techniques. In the afternoon, students will be broken up in small groups to apply this knowledge to their own subject areas. Later in the year we will be holding workshops utilising the expertise of HSC markers.

Laptops

New students from Years 8 - 12 should now have collected their laptops from the IT centre. If your son or daughter has not received their laptop could you please ask your child to see the staff in the IT Centre as soon as possible.

Students in Year 5, 6 and 7 will be receiving their laptops over the coming week.

Mrs Seonia Wark
Director of Studies
I would like to welcome all families to the start of the new school year and use this edition of TAS Talks to introduce myself and my role to the broader TAS community.

I am both humbled and excited to be appointed as the Director of Boarding and while this is a new position at TAS, it is not a new one for me. I have held similar positions at previous schools in Western Australia and Queensland. The role encompasses strategic development of all aspects of boarding as well as providing practical support for all of the Heads of House. One of my priorities will be getting to know the boarders and their families and forging positive, productive relationships.

It has been pleasing to observe how quickly the high number of new boarders have been welcomed to the start of the year. While there may have been a few nervous faces on Wednesday as new boarders sat in the Hoskins Theatre learning more about their new school and new home, any trepidation vanished quickly as they settled into their Houses and made new friendships. There was a real buzz about the campus over the weekend with games of touch football, slip’n’slides, barbecues, inflatable fun in the pool and even a whip cracking demonstration to keep the boys and girls entertained.

I am not surprised at how well the new starters have been embraced by the TAS boarding community. I have felt the same warm welcome extended to me and my family as we began our journey here in January. It is never an easy decision to uproot one’s family and move interstate but it is a very exciting time to be at TAS with the move to co-education, the commitment to upgrading facilities in existing Houses and the very strong boarding enrolments.

I am very much looking forward to working with Miss Alexandra Pollitt, Girls’ Education Director and Head of Dangar House to ensure the transition into co-educational boarding is a smooth one. Similarly, I am looking forward to working with Mr Andrew Junge (White House), Mr Alexander Smith (Abbott House), Mr James Pennington (Tyrrell House) and Mr David Drain (Croft House) to make sure we continue to provide excellent care for all of our boarders. Having held Head of House positions previously, I know the demands of the role and I know each of our Heads of House have the required passion and commitment.

This weekend will see all of our boarders and some day students converge on Coffs Harbour and surrounds for ‘Coast Weekend’, a fantastic initiative, which provides a great opportunity for the Houses to spend time getting to know each other. A lot of work has gone into the planning of the weekend and I have no doubt the effort will be worth it.

Please feel free to contact me at any time on my email dob@as.edu.au or my mobile 0417 099 215 should you need to discuss any aspect of your son’s or daughter’s boarding experience.

Mr Michael Holland
Director of Boarding
This is the first TAS Talks of the year and the perfect opportunity for me to welcome all boys and girls to the start of such an historic beginning. I would like to introduce myself, and my role as Girls’ Education Director to you all because it is a new position that many of you may be curious about.

I would like to say from the outset that it is a great privilege for me to be here. When I heard about the journey TAS was embarking upon to take their beautiful school in a new and exciting direction, a direction that would see young women in Middle and Senior School enjoy and benefit from all that TAS offers I wanted to be part of it.

I have worked extensively in both girls’ and co-educational schools in English teaching, boarding and pastoral roles and I am really excited to be here at TAS at a time when growth and opportunity abound. I have had a great deal of experience in Round Square schools, in championing the values and principles that these schools share. This experience and my involvement in Duke of Edinburgh programs, form the basis of my passion for connection, contribution and community.

My job as Girls’ Education Director is fundamentally the primary contact for the girls and their parents in both Boarding and the Day school, but I hope boys will also feel they can pop in for a chat. I see my role as about ensuring we create a cohesive and unified community where boys and girls have a voice and the needs of each are met to the very best of our ability.

Every single student, whether a girl or a boy may be feeling nervous and expectant about the start of school and our goal as teachers is to help you find a place here in one of the many areas of this school that may spark your interest no matter who you are or where you’ve come from. This is the school for you and I hope you come to believe the motto ‘Plus et en vous’ which is a motto well used in Round Square Schools across the world … quite simply it means ‘there’s more in you than you think or know… there’s more courage, there’s more compassion, there’s more strength.

To the girls you are the very first girls in the middle and senior school. You are forging a new path and that takes a special kind of person. Thank you for the courage it takes to be the ‘first’. I ask that you come with enthusiasm, you come with a desire to give of your best, to be yourself but that you also come with patience as this wonderful community navigates this exciting new direction.

Parents thank you for trusting us with your children and I look forward to meeting you and working with you to ensure your children feel valued and supported and ultimately can be and do their very best here.

Miss Alex Pollitt
Girls’ Education Director
Welcome to the 2016 school year after what I hope has been a refreshing break for all students and families.

I’d like to personally extend my warmest welcome to the families who have this year enrolled their sons and daughters into TAS. Prefects and House Captains have had the privilege of attending the Middle School Boarding welcome BBQ over the weekend to get to know a few of the new boarding students and it is encouraging to see that they are settling in thus far.

This is the first of what we hope will be a regular Prefects’ Column in TAS Talks.

Term 1 is always a busy time of the year with Coast Weekend (Week 2) and both War Cry night and the Swimming Carnival the next day, (Week 3) fast approaching. Many of the TAS Summer sports still have fixtures and events on throughout the term, so I wish all teams the best of luck as they move towards the finals.

Prefects this year are looking to gain huge involvement from the entire TAS community in regards to fundraising over the duration of the War Cries and Swimming Carnival. We have chosen to support the Steve Waugh Foundation for rare diseases, motivation largely coming from the foundation’s visit during The Captains Ride last year. We will continue to support this charity with fundraising events throughout the year. Prefects will be walking around the Swim Centre on War Cry night, Thursday 11 February, and we urge all families and community members attending to make a donation and show their support.

Get behind our Prefect body who will take part in a ‘headshave’ at various times during the term. Jarrod Bourke, our Deputy Senior Prefect will kick this off in a brave show of support at War Cry night.

For those who have not attended the War Cry night before, it is always a highlight of the TAS Calendar as the school community packs the Swim Centre to soak in the atmosphere of not only school sportsmanship in the pool but also school and house spirit from the pool side. We have been working with our new students learning house war cries and songs that are also a competitive feature of the evening.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there and furthermore look forward to keeping you updated with our Prefects’ initiatives and school activities throughout the year.

Ben Moffatt
Senior Prefect
Hugh Stonier (Year 10 Croft) has embarked on his exchange to Woodridge College, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Hugh arrived around 10 January and is settling in nicely to his new environment and friends. The first week Hugh took part in a three day ‘survival’ and team-building expedition and is now settling into classes and the daily routine of the school.

I look forward to hearing more of Hugh’s experiences as the exchange progresses. Hugh will return to TAS in Term 2.

Mrs Anna Barnier
This edition of TAS Talks is full of cheerful greetings from staff and students to all returning and new TAS families and I add my voice to the mix. Welcome one and all.

The start of this year received more attention than most with the formal commencement of co-education and the arrival of nearly 50 new girls. This moment rightfully captured media focus, as it should have. It was, after all, a very historic moment for the school. However, we also warmly acknowledge the 98 new families who have joined TAS this year and celebrate their arrival.

Several of the key projects of 2015 were completed in the school holidays on time and on budget. You will have seen or heard of the successful expansion of White House to accommodate all Middle School boarding boys and the beautiful renovation of Dangar House.

This year, the pace does not stop with the completion of the state of the art Year 12 Study Centre, the continued renovation of Memorial Hall and of course, the commencement of the complete refurbishment of all boys boarding furniture.

The TAS Foundation’s financial support for the boys boarding refurbishment makes this project possible and you will hear more of this over the course of the term.

And in terms of keeping in touch, you may have noticed that the TAS website has had a small facelift. The website is the most important communication tool we have so it is recommended that you acquaint yourselves with the site. Bookmark the parent portal (now accessible in the top right corner) so you can see all the information you need one click away.

Of course, for those new parents who are still finding out how and where we communicate, don’t forget to follow our social media presence. We have a very active Facebook, Instagram and Twitter presence that is managed so well by Tim Hughes. The most immediate stories about what is going on, happen in our social media space first.

Enjoy the start to term and no doubt we will see you at one of the many activities happening this term!

Ms Cressida Mort
Director of Development and Marketing
Holiday Growth

“The grass is greener where you water it.”

The recent break was a time for rest as well as personal growth. Whilst many students were involved in their own pursuits, a good number took part in school based activities. I would encourage you to read the individual reports in this edition to discover the breadth of activities that occurred both locally and across the state. I am sure that you share my immense gratitude to the staff that make these opportunities possible and their families who support them in doing so.

Middle School/ Senior School Swimming Championships

Events will commence next Monday evening 8 February. The 50m Butterfly will join the 200m Individual Medley on Monday night to allow for the introduction of Girls events to the championships.

Monday 8 February

6.30pm warm up
7.00pm Butterfly
7.30pm 200 IM

Arguably the highlight for spectators will be the 200m freestyle and house warcrys on Thursday 11 February. With the judges placing great emphasis on unity, houses are working hard this week to include all new students and make everyone feel a part of this special event.

Thursday 11 February

6.30pm warm up
7:30pm 200 Freestyle – Divisions separated by warcrys

The main event will commence at 8.50am on Friday 12 February. Day students are required to meet at 8.30am on Wakefield for role call.

The following link will provide you with the full schedule of events: Click HERE.

All students are expected to wear TAS bathers or leg suits and will be provided with a House swimming cap. Lunch will be provided for all students, staff and supporters. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!
Communication and Information

Hopefully students have settled smoothly into their co-curricular activities. If you have questions or concerns, I invite you to contact the staff member in charge of the activity or the Director of Co-Curricular’s office: Mr Will Caldwell/ Mrs Karen Hutton at dcc@as.edu.au

All contacts and information can be found on the TAS website.

Sport - Click HERE
Music - Click HERE

Rugby Management 2016

I am pleased to announce the following management positions for this season. Mr David Drain has accepted the position of MIC Rugby.

Mr Drain will be responsible for all strategic matters; attending all GPS Rugby Meetings and continuing as a GPS Selector. David will also be continuing his role as coach of our Second XV.

Mr Todd Currell has accepted the position of Rugby Co-Ordinator. Mr Currell will be responsible for all operational matters; he will be managing the day to day running of Rugby at TAS and all initial enquiries should be directed to him at: tcurrell@as.edu.au.

I am looking forward to working closely with both of them to ensure the continued success of Rugby at TAS.

Mr Will Caldwell
Director of Co-curricular
Cricket

Welcome back and I know all the players are excited to be playing cricket again for TAS. Also welcome to all the new students. I hope you enjoy playing cricket at TAS and you are able to make new friends within the team. After a summer of watching cricket on TV every night, I can imagine everyone will be trying to be the next Shaun Tait or Usman Khawaja.

While everyone was relaxing during the holidays, TAS Cricket teams were playing games in the Armidale competition. With many of the regular players away, we were able to field two competitive teams with a mix of students, Old Boys, parents and staff. Thank to all of you for helping out during the holidays.

There were some notable performances including:

- Nick Farrar with a confident 92 and then he backed this up with his spin bowling taking 5/44.
- Ian Ranger with his first century scoring an aggressive 104
- Henry Smith 5/40
- Angus Smith 4/20

TAS cricketers also had an opportunity to participate in games during the holidays. Our First XI participated in the annual Cricket Festival at TAS from the 17 – 21 January. We played high quality cricket and were able to share the winner’s trophy for the Second year with Shore. Also our Under 14 team travelled to Brisbane for three days of games and training. We played three games against Ambrose Treacy College and a game against Westmac. It was an enjoyable experience for the players and their cricketing skills have improved with this experience. A report for the Brisbane Development Tour is included.

Below is the draw Games for 6 February.

Mr Allan Moore
MIC Cricket

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st XI</th>
<th>Play catch up game on 14 February</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd XI Blue</td>
<td>Play catch up game on 14 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd XI White</td>
<td>Play catch up game on 14 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 16 Blue</td>
<td>v TAS White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 16 White</td>
<td>v TAS Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14 Blue</td>
<td>v Hillgrove</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 14 Yellow</td>
<td>v TAS White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 14 White</td>
<td>v TAS Yellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 12</td>
<td>v Uralla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>v Guyra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 9</td>
<td>v Hillgrove</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brisbane Cricket Development Tour

In the recent summer holidays eleven Year 7 and 8 cricketers travelled by bus to Brisbane for a Cricket Development Tour. We travelled on Thursday 21 January and arrived about 2pm in the afternoon. As soon as we arrived we played a Twenty20 against Ambrose Treacy College. We struggled with the bat and only managed to make a score of 50. Although we bowled quite well we were unable to bowl ATC out and they managed to win comfortably.

The next day we woke up early and had a training session before our two Twenty20s against both ATC and Westmac. We bowled first against Westmac and restricted them to 102. But we were unable to chase this down as our batting let us down. We then played ATC but they were again too strong and we were not able to beat them. So after a long day of cricket we caught the ferry over to Southbank for dinner.

On the final day we played a 40 over game against ATC. We started very early and were batting first once again. Toby Smith, Andrew Kirk, and Will Young all played great innings as we scored 120 off our 40 overs. However the ATC batters were too strong and we were defeated. Although we did not win any games it was a development tour and I know all the boys improved in different ways. ATC will be coming to Armidale next year so all current Year 7 and 8 cricketers should be excited about that. Thanks must go to George Miller, Mr Toakley and Mr Moore for coming along and organising such a great tour. Thank you.

Kieran Dennis (Year 9)
A Rowing Holiday

On Speech Day last year, most were looking forward to immediately switching off and focusing on making a smooth and swift transition from the stressful school mode, into the relaxing restful holiday mode. However it was a slightly different story for our squad of 12 rowers, three coxwains and three coaches who chose to prolong their productive state of mind and prepare for the first of two, summer holiday rowing camps.

The amazingly inspirational speech from Michael Crossland, which I’m sure, we all remember so vividly, helped see us off in a very optimistic and thankful state of mind as we reflected on the important message he gave us.

When our alarm clocks went off at 6 o’clock each morning we began to realize it was all for our benefit to utilize the flattest water for the most effective rowing sessions possible and ultimately give the amateur rowers and coxswains the best chance of success.

Three sessions each day gave each rower small challenges whether it be fatigue, painful blisters upon blisters or rough weather with waves crashing into the boats. Such encounters would give many people enough grief to not proceed with training, however each rower had the TAS attitude that made them grit their teeth and look at each situation as a character building experience and a challenge that would benefit us for the regatta held on the following weekend and more importantly, the rest of the season.

With tough competition of many Queensland GPS schools, King’s and many other experienced crews, the three TAS crews were not rewarded with a gold medal however took something much greater from the Grafton rowing camp which was a renewed determination to continue to develop as rowers.

Despite not holding back on the Christmas lunch, each rower remained active over the summer break as the second rowing camp at Taree was constantly in our minds and it was essential that we were as fit as possible for the week that seemed to approach rapidly. Instead of the comfort of cabins, everyone stayed in tents for the six days which made the extreme heat, humidity and rain, all that much closer and personal, however the moment we pushed of into the beautiful Manning River we were all focused on improving our form, stroke by stroke.

We are very grateful for the amount that Mr Caldwell, Mr Wheaton, Miss West, Mr Scott, Mr Hughes, Mr Swan, Mrs Hutton and many others put in to organize every aspect of the rowing program to make the wonderful sport such a positive time of our lives and something that we will cherish forever.

George Rodgers
Captain of Boats
Welcome back to Music at TAS! There is such a great buzz across the whole of Creative Arts this year and we are very excited in Music about our year ahead.

We are planning a number of new ensemble offerings this year including a vocal group for female voices 'TAS Cantique', a mixed voice vocal ensemble 'TAS Chorale', a rock band, a chamber strings and others.

Auditions will be held over the coming weeks for our new vocal groups - so stay tuned.

We extend our heartiest welcome to Mrs Baumgartner who has started teaching Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 at TAS and will also be directing TAS Big Band this year. Welcome also to Paul Marshall and Louisa Sindel-Marshall who are new to NECOM and will be teaching students woodwind at TAS this year.

Instrumental & Vocal Tuition

A reminder that tuition is available at TAS for voice and also a huge range of instruments - bagpipes, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, flute, piano, trombone, organ, violin, cello, guitar, bass, drums, French horn and recorder, and many more. If you would like to try out an instrument before you commit to lessons just contact the Music Office. We are always happy to advise parents/guardians and students on instrumental and vocal tuition.

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

Instrumental lessons have started

All instrumental tuition lessons have commenced again for the term. Students - if you are not sure of your tuition time please contact your tutor. Times will be up on the board in the Music Centre and also sent out to all TAS teachers too. Students please ensure you bring your instruments to every lesson and feel free to leave them in the safe storage area of the Music Centre if you are a boarder and when you are not using them.

Also students, please set up a reminder on your phone, computer or watch to ensure you make your regular lesson time. Our music tutors are incredibly busy people and it is quite difficult for them to find an open spot in order to provide you a make up lesson when you miss one.

Ensemble rehearsals have commenced

We have ensembles for all levels of experience and skill and also for all ages. As mentioned above there are exciting new ensembles commencing this year and we are always happy to advise you about joining a TAS ensembles. Students - feel free to pop down to the Music Centre and talk to one of the Music Team.

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

Ensemble Rehearsal times are listed [HERE](#).

Boarders’ Practice

TAS boarders will be able to access the Music Centre during practice sessions in the evenings during the term to practice their instrument. A Boarders’ Practice Supervisor will be in the Music Centre for each session to oversee and assist students with their work. Times are [HERE](#).

NECOM Program

Attached is a flyer about the fantastic programs on offer through our local New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM). The Music Team works closely with NECOM and is involved in many ways with their programs and events. TAS supports students who are involved in NECOM ensembles and events. The TAS minibus departs at 3.40pm each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during term to transport students up to the Old Teachers’ College in Mossman Street for NECOM ensembles.

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mrs Baumgartner and Mrs Broadbent
The Creative Arts at TAS always seems like a busy place and 2016 will be no different down in the Hoskins Centre. The year began with the theatre hosting the acclaimed Opera New England production of La Traviata and now the space is already being prepared for Bye Bye Birdie. Our 2016 Season is heavily booked with local community shows and touring productions and the addition of some new opportunities means that TAS students will be seen performing on the stage more than ever. In short, it is another exciting and energetic year and I encourage everyone to watch out for news on the exciting events and productions coming our way.

Term 1 brings with it the annual TAS Production and this year’s musical Bye Bye Birdie already promises to be a big, bright, colourful show. Even before the academic year commenced we were hard at work at the Musical Camp held at TAS in the last week of the holidays. Thirty six keen members of the cast worked intensively on the chorus songs and energetic dance numbers and we made some excellent progress on the show. Part of the camp was the opportunity to get a sneak-peek at Opera New England’s production of La Traviata and it wonderful to see the young semi-professional opera singers going through the same processes as us. Thanks go to Mrs Leasa Cleaver and Ms Leanne Roobol for their assistance and particular mention should be made of the exceptionally talented Aimee Brown, who returned after finishing her HSC last year to again assist with choreography. The coming weeks will bring an increased focus on the show preparing for our performances in Week 8. Tickets will be going on sale next week so be ready for that news as they are expected to sell out quickly this year.

Whenever we put on a production we are always in need of assistance and this year is no different. With a cast of almost 60 there is a daunting demand on our costume team and we would appreciate any donations of 1950’s style outfits. There will be some weekend sessions working on costumes happening soon and anyone who can straight-stich and has their own machine would be greatly appreciated. If you think you can help out with costuming please contact Leasa Cleaver (lcleaver@as.edu.au). Work on the set will happen this Saturday at 9am in Hoskins and anyone with carpentry skills are welcome to come along with a drill and tape measure to give us a hand.

Finally, the Co-curricular Drama program is getting ready to launch once more and this year we have a much wider offering. Below are opportunities for students in Middle and Senior school and information on our new Junior School options can be found in that section of TAS Talks.

Trinity Drama

Trinity Drama - Trinity Speech and Drama lessons will again be available to TAS students in all years using the internationally recognised Trinity College London syllabus. Subjects offered include Speech and Drama, Individual Acting Skills, Acting in Pairs, Group Drama, Communication Skills and Performance Arts. Students can enrol in individual lessons or small group lessons of usually two or three students. Lessons will be taught in the Hoskins Centre at a time suitable for both tutor and student throughout the school day between 8am and 5:30pm. Trinity examinations are held in November and students often will work towards performing at the Armidale Eisteddfod in Term 2, though this can be decided by students and parents. All Trinity students will have the opportunity to perform publicly at a showcase in the Hoskins Theatre. This year Trinity Guildhall has recommended Eilish O’Shea as a tutor for TAS students. Eilish is currently undertaking a degree in Criminology at the University of New England and has Associate Diploma in Performance (Speech and Drama). She herself is a student of the Trinity Speech and Drama in Tamworth and hopes to continue her studies by working towards her Licentiate Diploma in Performance. Permission forms are available through Sarah Broadbent (sbroadbe@as.edu.au) and classes will commence in Week 3.
Felt Tip Theatre Company

This year Felt Tip Theatre Company will be operating their Youth Division program of weekly drama workshops for primary and secondary school students out of the Hoskins Centre. These classes focus on developing performance and communication skills, as well as social confidence, through improvising, drama games and working on scripts. These classes are run by Felt Tip's Artistic Director, Alex Robson, who was the Trinity Speech and Drama teacher at TAS in 2015. Alex has years of experience in working with young people, holds a Bachelor of Theatre Studies, Bachelor of Arts (Hons), an Associate Diploma from Trinity College of London, and a Certificate of Performance from AMEB, he regularly directs and writes for theatre, as well as acts, and recently undertook an intensive course in Theatresports conducted by the celebrated Lyn Pierse, author of Improvisation: The Guide. The Secondary class takes place every Friday starting on 5 February, and runs from 4-6pm. The cost is $300 per term. In addition to this, there is also the opportunity for solo classes where students can work more intensely on their personal performance skills. The private lessons cost $25 per half hour session. Parents and students interested in being involved with these opportunities should contact Sarah Broadbent (sbroadbe@as.edu.au) or email Alex Robson (felttiptheatrecompany@gmail.com) for more information.

Next week there will be more information in this section explaining the 2016 productions at TAS and other opportunities for students to be involved in the Creative Arts.

Mr Andrew O’Connell

THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL Presents

BYE BYE BIRDIE
A Musical Comedy

In Association with NEGS and PLC

BOOK by MICHAEL STEWART MUSIC by CHARLES STROUSE LYRICS by LEE ADAMS ORIGINALLY PRODUCED by EDWARD PADULA

17, 18, 19 March 7:30pm
18 March 2:00pm
Tickets $25, $20, $15 hoskins.as.edu.au or 6776 5878
The dust begins to settle

Well, a very brief Week 1 is ‘done’ and, considering this is a term of firsts for so many Middle School students, we’re managing reasonably well. New classes, teachers, sporting commitments, especially Swimming Carnival preparation, combine with Chapel, Assembly and Day and Boarding Houses to make for a time of not inconsiderable adjustment. Perhaps the most important aspect of your children’s time at TAS at the moment is the fact that they’re busy. All Middle School people, especially boarding students, have also experienced their first weekend of activities and, for the first time, boarding and a good number of day students are making preparations for Coast Weekend which will involve a mass exodus from school this coming Friday afternoon.

Despite the conventional wisdom associated with keeping all new and returning students gainfully employed it would be supremely naïve to think that none is missing home. While their reactions are as various as their individuality, missing home is natural and considering this feeling is an affirmation of ‘things familiar’ and people they know well and trust, it’s actually a very normal reaction and something we expect and, definitely, something we’re able to help them to manage. While some boarders may not realise it, in a sense it’s important for us, as adults, to realize that in order for these young people to express concerns here, they feel comfortable enough at school to actually do this. I have been invited to the new, enlarged and more appealing White House two times over the last week and have been impressed by the manner of staff and the resulting atmosphere and developing ‘culture’. To their very real credit the boarding staff have been tremendously busy and supportive: staff, including Mr Andrew Junge (on a daily basis), have been on duty, assisting with prep matters and, perhaps more importantly at this stage of the year, just talking to the boarders about their day. The Year 8 students, too, deserve special mention: they’ve begun to show the newer students how to manage general house routine, are knowledgeable, good humored and largely sensible in terms of advice given to their peers. In short, the signs of a healthy, successful start to the year are strong and positive.
In the wider Middle School context, to ensure success I ask that you, likewise, encourage your sons and daughters, about the good things that happened in their day and, above all else, reassure them when and where necessary about matters requiring same. I also encourage you, wherever possible, to travel to Armidale for the Swimming Carnival on Thursday 11 (evening session) and Friday 12 February, being the end of Week 3. Again, I want you to contact us about any matters concerning you or your children, especially at this stage of the year. If you are here, of course, you can communicate personally with your child’s Homeroom Teacher at the Parent Information Session and BBQ that precede next Thursday evening’s events in the school swimming pool area.

Homework / Prep

Either you’ll have seen or heard about the School’s year-specific Homework Schedules. While it is easy for us to assist boarders with their new study routines during Prep time, it would be a very good idea, I think, for parents of day students to read through the sheet your children have and assist them with the organisation of a daily work completion routine. You’ll note that the sheets contain subject-specific color codes to facilitate such organisation. If you have any questions about the process, please contact your child’s Homeroom Teacher who will be able to advise you about the best ways to facilitate the process of homework completion and assignment / assessment preparation. I know I said this last year, but what I like about this scheme is that it gives us opportunity to support and guide Middle School students to the realisation of good study habits over time. The schedule is reasonable in terms of time allocations (approximately 15, 20 or 25 minutes per curriculum area for Years 6, 7 and 8 respectively) which is staggered for all subjects over the week and it is and sensitive to the needs and interests of younger students in that, very pleasing for a teacher of English, there is provision for reading time, especially at the end of each week.

Middle School Information Night

The Parent Information Session next week will commence at 5:30pm Thursday, 11 February. Mrs Alison Evans and I will greet and then direct you to your child’s Home Rooms where teachers will give information about general Middle School practices and specific curriculum issues. While Home Room staff will be talking to you, Middle School students will looked after elsewhere as the focus for the evening will be information to you. Wherever possible, time will be devoted to answering questions you may wish to ask. The sessions for each year group have been allocated 40 minutes. Following this meeting we’ll then make our way to the McConville Centre where families will meet with us informally for a BBQ before the commencement of the Swimming Carnival in the Sports Centre. I’m really looking forward to meeting as many parents as possible.

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School
I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our parents, especially those whose children are starting with us for the first time. While the weather was not kind to us last Thursday for our morning tea, but it was great to see how excitedly everyone came together in class for the start of classes. We are a tight knit community and this social fabric is never more evident than when we gather, as we will this Friday for our BBQ. Our Liaison Parents are key and will be in touch with you all in relation to getting together socially and mustering troops when assistance is required for the upcoming swimming and athletics championships. You will find their names and contacts below and they will be in touch with you all soon. As a School, we thank them for their generous contribution for our families.

And to all our students, it is great to see you all and hear your voices in the corridors and playgrounds once again. I look forward to catching with everyone and encourage you all to have a chat with me in the office – the fish all made it through the holidays! Talking of fish, if you missed the story at our first morning tea, they now all have names. Lily, who feeds them almost every day, called me into the office one morning late last year to proudly announce that she had named them. “Wow! Outstanding Lily. How do you remember all their names?” I asked. She replied simply, “I just call them all Steve.”

I hope you all have a wonderful year.

Staffing Changes – 2016

We welcome Miss Phoebe Wood to the Junior School. Phoebe comes to us from Gunnedah South Public School and is well known here at TAS. Phoebe is teaching Year 4 in 2016, replacing Mr Neil Druce who is now teaching in the Northern Territory. We also welcome back Mr Alex Portell, refreshed and ready to be back in the classroom and Ms Fiona Chappell as our JS Admin Assistant. Mr Cameron Patrick has joined the team to teach Christian Development and share in our Chapel services and our Gap Students are George Miller and Piers Beersley, both of whom are well known to us.

Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School
Osaka – December 2016

TAS will make the journey to Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School, Osaka in December this year. This fantastic cultural exchange program is for students Year 4 – 6 and is now in it’s 17th year.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on junior@as.edu.au for queries or expressions of interest. A detailed letter will be with you all shortly, but the list of tourists has already begun to grow.
Welcome BBQ – A Sausage Sizzle (Friday 5 February)

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

International Baccalaureate progress towards Authorisation

Before school started back this year, the entire Junior School and specialist staff received two intensive days of in-service from Natasha Hutchins, a senior and very highly regarded IB Consultant and Educator who has been in the program for over 15 years. Her time with us allowed us to study the PYP and its standards and practices. Understanding teaching and learning strategies and focussing on conceptual understanding was a key focus for us and the time spent was incredibly worthwhile. Our PYP Coordinator, Mrs Veronica Waters will update you all each week with more information and examples of our direction as a School and we look forward to announcing when our upcoming IB Information evening will be held.

Drama in Junior School

Without stating the ridiculous, we thought little more Drama in the mix would be a healthy thing….. With thanks to Mr Andrew O’Connell and his Creative Arts team, The JS Drama Club, Trinity Drama and Felt Tip Theatre Company will all be available and further information is located in the section for Creative Arts. If you have any questions please contact either Andrew or myself for further information.

Allergies at School

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

Consent Form

In 2016, we have again adopted the process for local excursions of having a generic form to complete. The Consent Form was has been sent electronically so if you did not receive the email please contact the school.

And lastly, but very importantly, the Chapel St Turning Circle….

We continue to ask for our parents’ cooperation in keeping the turning circle a safe and effective ‘drop-off and pick-up’ area.

Please help others waiting in the Chapel Street turning circle by:

- Always drop-off or pick-up your child from the designated area
- Please have your child’s school bag in the car with them, so the driver does not need to get out of the car to open the boot
- Drivers should remain in their vehicle at all times and drop-off or pick-up within a 2 minute timeframe
- Make sure the children use the footpath-side-door when getting in and out of the vehicle

Never double park or reverse your vehicle. If your child is not ready for collection at the time you are entering the turning circle, please continue around and park your vehicle or rejoin at the end of the turning circle queue. Other members of the public also use this area so if you have any concerns please contact the school immediately and we will ensure the system continues to work as well as possible.

Mr Ian Lloyd
Head of Junior School

Looking ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3 February</td>
<td>Parent Info Night (6.00 - 7.00 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Years 1, 3, &amp; 5 in JS classrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Junior School photos. Formal Uniform required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9 February</td>
<td>Junior School Swimming Championships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10 February</td>
<td>Year 5 Assembly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Life Education Van</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11 February</td>
<td>Life Education Van</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15 February</td>
<td>Basketball competition starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 February</td>
<td>Life Education Van</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 February</td>
<td>Year 4 Assembly</td>
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</table>
Happy Birthday

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

Junior School Barbecue

This is a wonderful opportunity for new and returning TAS families and staff to get together and have a most enjoyable evening. We welcome and encourage all families to attend. The barbecue will be held in the Junior School playground on Friday, 5 February from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. The much loved jumping castle has been booked and will provide easy entertainment for the masses of children. The BBQ will be held rain or shine.

Contacting the Junior School

Ph: 6776 5817

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

Naming Belongings

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

Absences from School

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

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

Camp Australia – After School Care 2016

Camp Australia will start the after school care program again in 2016. If you would like to use the service throughout the year, you will need to register first with Camp Australia.

To register go to:

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

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

Life Education Van

Life Education Van will be held in Week 3.

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

Year 1 & 2 will be learning out our major internal organs, the balance of exercise and diet, peer pressure and making good decisions.

Year 4 & 5 will be learning factors that influence our body system, ways to manage peer pressure, effects of smoking and second hand smoke.

These are invaluable sessions and we look forward to having the Life Education van here with us again in 2016.
Junior School Drama Co-curricular Opportunities

JS Drama Club
After an incredibly successful performance of Peter Pan Jnr. in Term 4 2015 we have decided to start an afternoon Drama Club for students in the Junior School. These classes will be taught by Mrs Leasa Cleaver, the director of last year’s Junior School Musical, with the goal of introducing students to performance and working on skills such as voice, body, creating characters and working with scripts in a fun group environment.

Classes will be negotiated on a term-by-term basis and will run in Term 1, 2 and 3. Students in K-2 will meet Tuesday afternoon 3:45pm - 4:45pm in the Hoskins Centre and Years 3-5 on Thursday afternoon 3:45pm - 4:45pm in the Hoskins Centre. Term 1 classes start in Week 4 and it will be $56 for the term. Interested parents should contact Sarah Broadbent (sbroadbe@as.edu.au) and permission forms will soon be available from the Junior School Office.

Trinity Drama
Trinity Speech and Drama lessons are available to TAS students in all years using the internationally recognised Trinity College London syllabus. Subjects offered include Speech and Drama, Individual Acting Skills, Acting in Pairs, Group Drama, Communication Skills and Performance Arts.

This year Trinity Guildhall has recommended Eilish O’Shea as a tutor for TAS students. Eilish is currently undertaking a degree in Criminology at the University of New England and has Associate Diploma in Performance (Speech and Drama). She herself is a student of the Trinity Speech and Drama in Tamworth and hopes to continue her studies by working towards her Licentiate Diploma in Performance.

Permission forms will also be available for Trinity Drama soon once arrangements have been finalised.

Felt Tip Theatre Company
This year Felt Tip Theatre Company will be operating their Youth Division program of weekly drama workshops for primary and secondary school students out of the Hoskins Centre. These classes focus on developing performance and communication skills, as well as social confidence, through improvising, drama games and working on scripts. These classes are run by Felt Tip’s Artistic Director, Mr Alex Robson.

The Primary class takes place every Monday of the public school term, from 4-5pm. The cost is $150 per term. Parents and students interested in being involved with these opportunities should contact Mrs Sarah Broadbent (sbroadbe@as.edu.au) or email Mr Alex Robson (felttiptheatrecompany@gmail.com) for more information.

Mr Andrew O’Connell
Creative Arts Coordinator
Welcome back to TAS Junior School Sports news. We are looking forward to another great year of participation and activity for our children in the Junior School.

Please note that all sport training commenced this week on Monday 1 February from 3.45pm to 5.00 pm. Sport afternoons will continue as for Term 4, 2015. The children are to be picked up from the Turning Circle by 5.15 pm.

Commencement of Games:

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

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

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

Sports Training

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

Junior School Swimming Carnival – Tuesday, 9 February

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

Ensure you return your child’s nomination form by Friday 5 February at the latest to your class teacher. Please email if you have any concerns or questions in regard to filling out the nomination form - cwright@as.edu.au Note: Kindergarten children will be allowed to compete the 25m freestyle with a kick board if they wish.
We encourage as many children as possible to enter these events and enjoy participating in our carnival. Parents are welcome to attend and a programme of events will be available on the web before the day, with approximate times. Looking forward to a fun filled year in sport.

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

**Tennis**

Tennis certainly got off to a wonderful start yesterday, despite some tired faces having stayed up to watch The Australian Open!

We welcomed many new members to the tennis group and now have 13 in total. Due to the increased numbers we also have two new coaches.

Yesterday was spent practising hitting the ball over the net and learning how to hit a forearm. Hand-eye coordinator drills were also a major focus of the training.

For our more experienced players a game of ‘crazy tennis’ was a highlight of the session.

Please remember to pack a water bottle and a snack for afternoon tea as the session does not start until 4pm.

**Mrs Veronica Waters**

**Gymnastics Report**

The first gymnastics session for the year was an exciting one as our gymnasts engaged enthusiastically in the program on offer. Our session began with a warm up game of Over Here, Over There. This was followed by sequence of springing and landing over mats, spring board routines and a jump into the very popular pit. Our skill based activities included a rotation of static balances and ball throwing as well as locomotion on the beam. Our session concluded with some swinging on the bars and a cool down of static balances. The development of skills and the enthusiasm of our troupe augurs well for a great season.

**Mrs Anne Trenerry**

**Chess**

Chess Club is in full swing! Every Tuesday morning (8:20-8:45), the Chess Club meets in the E & E room. All levels of expertise are welcome, from beginners to budding Chess whizzes. It is wonderful to see some Middle School students attending to mentor new players by sharing their tricks and helpful tips. There will be inter-school competitions later in the term, including the NSW Junior Chess League competition. Please come and join the fun!
PYP Update

All teachers have prepared new units of inquiry for students, which are inquiry based, challenging and will allow for a more formalised introduction to the inquiry cycle.

As there are 6 trans-disciplinary themes, each class will spend 6 weeks exploring each theme. The themes will be explored through a central idea and lines of inquiry.

The table below summarises the themes and central ideas that each class will be covering over the first 6 weeks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Group</th>
<th>Trans Disciplinary Theme</th>
<th>Central Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>Who we are</td>
<td>Schools and communities are organised to help us play together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Who we are</td>
<td>Everyday we learn more about who we are and what we can do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Where we are in place and time</td>
<td>Differences in family structures and roles today have changed or remained the same over time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Sharing the Planet</td>
<td>People can establish practices in order to sustain and maintain the Earth’s resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Sharing the Planet</td>
<td>Over time, living things need to adapt in order to survive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Who we are</td>
<td>People’s cultural background has an impact on their beliefs, values and actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Sharing the Planet</td>
<td>Human demand on resources affects the environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2015 time was spent ‘mapping’ the BOSTES outcomes to each trans-disciplinary theme and UOI, which has enabled 2016 to commence with increased focus on our teaching, learning and assessment in a trans disciplinary manner.

Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator
‘We teach music because of its immeasurable capacity and potency to act on the heart, mind, spirit and soul.’

The New England Conservatorium’s acclaimed music programs for pre-schoolers, K-Yr 12 students and adults start up in February so don’t miss out on making music part of your life – enrol now for a great year of music.

- **Mini Minstrels Program**
  - Music-on-the-Lap for bubs-5 years
  - Introducing Music Skills for K-Yr 2

- **K-Yr 12 Choral Program**
  - Minisingers for K-Yr 2
  - Cantilena for Yrs 3-6
  - New England Singers for Yrs 7-12
  - Children’s Opera Chorus for OA

- **K-Yr 8 Foundation Music Program**
  - A comprehensive foundation program for children includes individual string, woodwind or brass lessons, ensembles and concerts.

- **Instrumental Lessons**
  - String, Woodwind & Brass lessons for everyone

- **Ensembles Program**
  - String, wind & brass ensembles
  - Chamber Ensembles
  - Armidale Youth Orchestras

- **Hire an Instrument**
  - Fractional and full size string, wind and brass instruments

For information & enrolment:
Web: necom.une.edu.au
Tel: 6788 2135
Email: admin@necom.org.au
POTTERY CLASSES

Dear Parents,

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

All classes are held in art room one of the Hoskins Center at The Armidale School. Year K to 3 is on Tuesdays from 4pm to 5pm, beginning February 10 and Year 4 to 8 is on Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm, beginning February 12. The all inclusive cost for the 6 week term of lessons is $145.00.

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

When enrolling, please include your child’s name and age, and your name and phone number. We are also offering children aged 11 years and older the opportunity to attend an intensive weekend workshop at our pottery studio on March 14th and 15th.

Please contact us if you are interested.

Kind Regards,
Rick hatch
LOUISA SINDEL-MARSHALL
FIMEB LTCL LMusA LMusEdASMC LPerfASMC AMusA ATCL AAGM ADipA ADipSCSM DipABRSM AMusicolASMC MAGTR MMTA

Louisa studied saxophone and piano as her main instruments and has taught saxophone, clarinet, flute, piano for leisure, musicianship and theory for over 15 years in Sydney. She also specialises in conducting school concert bands and woodwind ensembles.

Louisa studied under Mark Walton (Chair, Woodwind Unit, Sydney Conservatorium of Music), Jarrod Whitbourn and classical saxophone with Professor B. Dubreuil in Paris.

Louisa has run her private studio in Sydney for many years, teaching from Prelim through to advanced Associate Diploma level and received the AMEB Teachers Shield in 2006.

Louisa and her family have chosen a tree-change to Armidale due to its outstanding reputation as a leader in regional music and culture.

PAUL MARSHALL
DipComp (SCSM) LCompASMC(Hons) LMusEdASMC ATCL AAGM ADipA ADipSCSM

As a young musician, Paul studied saxophone, violin, viola, double bass and guitar and then began composing at the age of 16.

Paul currently teaches saxophone, clarinet, flute, brass, double bass, composition, theory and musicianship.

He teaches in his busy Sindel-Marshall Studio in Sydney, preparing students for AMEB exams and the HSC. He also specialises in conducting local school concert bands, string ensembles and a Jazz Ensemble.

Paul is a prolific composer and Reed Music has published 11 books of his works for clarinet, saxophone, cello and bassoon, several of which are in the new AMEB syllabuses for saxophone, clarinet and cello syllabuses.

Paul is an experienced woodwind repairer and is also learning how to build oboes!
TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY, 3:30PM - 4:30PM
BELLEVUE OVAL, UNI OF NEW ENGLAND

FREE AFL CLINIC FOR 5-16 YEAR OLDS
MEET & GREET SWANS PLAYERS
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
AUTOGRAPHS

For any enquiries prior to the day, please call 6659 6000