Activities

The 2016 Activities Program is now underway and Middle and Senior School students are now looking ahead to the second activities day this Friday. For many it will be their first night in the field and that will set the tone for the program for the year. Reports from the activities last Friday were very encouraging and it seems that the new program format is off to a good start. Students will approach the Activities Program with different levels of personal enthusiasm and this is natural. The aim of the program for all students is the same though; to present challenges in the outdoors that will see them stretch themselves and test the limits of their ability. This may come in the form of learning how to sleep in the bush for the first time, lead others on expedition, overcome fear on an abseil or learn fire-fighting and surf lifesaving skills that will be taken through life. Collecting experiences of embracing new challenges is preparation for facing future hurdles in life and it is an investment that we see as central to our purpose at TAS. I wish all students and staff involved well as the program continues this Friday.

Year 12 Academic Activities

The program on activities days for Year 12 is focused on academic challenge rather than the outdoors and this is appropriate in their HSC year. During each of the activities days, Year 12 students will focus on study skills, specific approaches to key subject areas and they will be exposed to advice from presenters who have recently completed their HSC with success. It is also an opportunity to consolidate their approach to the HSC journey by setting up study routines, choosing what tutoring support to take advantage of and setting goals for the amount of study to be done. Last Friday students were reminded that the pace of their study should be accelerating now and I encourage parents to support and encourage their children in keeping the momentum moving forward.
Planning for Opportunities

As we approach the halfway mark in this first term of the year school activity is naturally gathering pace. Assessment tasks are due in many subjects, sport is in full swing and the Activities Program has begun. Whilst this is a busy time for many students, there are plenty of other opportunities available and they should not be allowed to drift past without being looked at. In this edition of TAS Talks alone there are invitations to get involved in the Thailand Service Trip, the Katoomba Christian Youth Convention (Kyck), the Round Square International Conference in Switzerland, Round Square exchange at junior and senior levels, Round Square International Service projects, guitar ensembles, the Tezukayama exchange to Japan for Junior School and the Chess Club. This is only a sample of what will be presented through the year of course and I encourage parents to keep looking at what is on offer with their children.

Minimbah Reception for the Governor General

Last Friday Minimbah Primary School hosted a reception for the Governor General and Lady Cosgrove during their visit to Armidale and we were privileged to be invited to join the event. The ceremony included dancing and singing from the Minimbah children and a Q&A session with personal questions from Minimbah children about their Excellencies’ grandchildren and on constitutional challenges from the senior TAS students there. The relationship between TAS and Minimbah continues to grow and the Governor General made comment on it in his address. For those not aware, a group of TAS students visit Minimbah at lunch time each week to read with the students there and then play games with them. Our students learn as much from the experience as the Minimbah children and I know that it has been a powerful experience for many. Any Senior School students interested in joining this program should see Mr Buntine or Mr Hughes in the Development Office.
Notes from the Travel Office

Easter break - free travel between home town and Armidale on charter coach services or train for boarders.

With Easter fast approaching and the booking deadline being 25 February, please contact travel@as.edu.au for information, in particular, if new to the school and needing advice regarding available services - public and charter.

Please note that the boarding houses are closed for the Easter break.

Charter coaches depart on Thursday 24 March (am) and return on Monday 28 March (pm).

Absentees

If your child is to be absent from school for any reason, including arriving late or leaving early, please advise the appropriate Administration Assistant (see below), 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.

Junior School: Phone 6776 5817 or junior@as.edu.au
Middle School: Phone 6776 5819 or middle@as.edu.au
Senior School: Phone 6776 5800 or absentees@as.edu.au

More information about absentees and extended leave can be found HERE.

Week 5

Friday 26 February  
Activities Day 2
7pm Middle School Social with PLC (At TAS)

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 & 7 Parent Teacher Interviews (2-6pm)
CIS Football Knockout (Bishop Druitt, Coffs Harbour)

Friday 4 March  
Year 6 & 7 Parent Teacher Interviews (2-6pm)

Week 7

Monday 7 March  
Headmaster’s Country Tour (HMCT) (Inverell)

Tuesday 8 March  
HMCT (Moree)

Wednesday 9 March  
HMCT (Walgett)
NCIS Football
Year 9&10 Music Day (NECOM)
P&F AGM (7pm)

Thursday 10 March  
HMCT (Narrabri)

Friday 11 March  
Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews (2-6pm)

Saturday 12 March  
GPS Head of the River
Year 6 & 7 Parent Teacher Interviews

These will be held on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 March. Details have been emailed to parents. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Mrs Allison Evans in the Middle School office on 6776 5819 or email middle@as.edu.au

Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews

These will be held on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 March. Details regarding interview times will be sent to parents by the end of the week.

Parent Information sessions will be held on Thursday 10 March at 6.15pm in Big School and a repeat session on Friday 11 March at 11.45am also in Big School.

Please contact Mrs Vickey O’Brien for further details on 6776 5806 or email vobrien@as.edu.au

YEAR 10 ENGLISH - NOTIFICATION OF USE OF M OR MA RATED FILM

Dear Parent/Guardian

As part of the Year 10 English Course your child is currently studying a unit of work on Shakespeare’s Macbeth. As a part of this study we wish to view segments of several film interpretations of the play. These include films produced by BBC’s Shakespeare, Roman Polanski’s version as well as modern interpretations. Some of these films are rated M, and, given this rating, TAS must seek parental permission for students to view such a production.

Please feel free to contact either myself – 0414 451 011 – or your child’s English teacher if you have any concerns about this arrangement.

Ms Julie Flanagan
Head of English
Thailand Service Trip

During the past three years, the Thailand service trip has offered help and hope to those less fortunate, and a sense of purpose and meaning to those who have found it a privilege to attend.

There is no doubt that as a service trip, there will be plenty of giving at both the McKean Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre and the Agape AIDS Orphanage - physically, as we undertake important work to improve these places for their residents, and emotionally, as we build relationships and take time to offer friendship, understanding and support.

Our students often find the trip a transformative experience that energises them with a new sense of compassion, gratitude and perspective.

An information evening will be held on Wednesday 9 March at 7.30pm. Anyone who is interested in participating in the 2016 Thailand Service Trip is encouraged to come along and find out more. You can also visit the [website](#) where information, a flyer and application form can be found.

KYCK

KYCK is a conference for high schoolers where you hear about Jesus. No there isn’t any physical kycking involved, but you will be kicking yourself if you miss out. Imagine worshipping God with thousands of other young people – with inspiring music, powerful bible talks, fun games and a whole weekend with your friends in the Blue Mountains. And it’s great for your leaders as well – because we’ve got everything sorted. You can just pack your toothbrush, sit back and relax and be a part of what God is doing in this generation.

TAS will be attending the KYCK Conference during the April Holidays from 20-25 April. It is an amazing experience so if you are interested please speak with Mr Richard Newton on 0429 157 905 or email rnewton@as.edu.au. Visit the [KYCK website](#) to find out more.
The devastating effects of the cyclone that hit Fiji are still coming to light. Apart from the deaths and injuries that occurred, many people living in villages have had their homes and community infrastructure damaged or destroyed. In Australia we also know how devastating natural disasters can be for people. There is no-where on our planet that is immune from such events.

What is noticeable is how people respond in the aftermath of such events. It can bring out the best and the worst in human nature – people give generously, aid pours in to help people recover, infrastructure is re-built, people work together. It is also the case in some places that a few take advantage of such situations by looting, slowing down or diverting the distribution of aid and so on. This accentuates the fact that we are always making choices that expand/grow the sense of humanity we share, or conversely, shrink or diminish what it means to be human.

Let’s narrow this down to our relationships. We are always making choices to grow or shrink other people’s experience of life and themselves. Sometimes we can act out of our own emotional damage (hurt, pain and injustices we carry on the inside) and so inflict damage on others. This can appear as bullying, intimidation, aggression and violence. Out of our own sense of diminishment we bring down others. This means we have a responsibility to face our own experiences of pain, hurt, injustice and so on, so that we can become more fully human and so relate to others in ways that also affirm their value as persons.

We can only become fully human with each other because our identity is always relational at its core. So the invitation to ‘work on our own stuff’ becomes hugely important. Here, working things through with a friend, family member or professional person like a counsellor or psychologist, becomes something of the highest priority – for all our sakes.

Mr Rob Hadfield
Head Shaves and Avoiding a Reflective Sense of Self

The Prefects continue to make energetic inroads into the Head Shave Fundraising. This year money is being donated to Steve Waugh Foundation for Rare Diseases and the cause has been taken up with abandon. What is most disturbing is the pace at which some of the hair is growing back and it reminds me of George Bernard Shaw’s comment that ‘youth is wasted on the young’. I remember when hair grew back; it was around the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Prefects continue this fundraising through the term with a few more locks typically falling at the Athletics Carnival and it’s great to see them support Waugh’s Foundation.

On the matter of a sense of self, James Holbeck, who spoke last year to all students from 6-11, wrote an interesting piece on his blog exploring the Mitchell Pearce saga that emerged over summer. Drawing on his own battles with alcohol as a professional rugby player, Holbeck writes of the pressures to be a certain person who dances to the beat of other people’s drum and, therefore, the dangers of creating our identity based on how wish to be seen by others. It resonates with Brent Sanders message to Year 11 last week and reminds us all of social pressures surrounding many things, but gender especially, and of the importance for Schools and families to help all students develop a strong sense of self. While not defending Pearce, Holbeck’s insights are interesting and worth a read. They can be found at the link below.

http://www.jamesholbeck.com/blog

Mr Barney Buntine

Above: Prefect Alister Braham got into the TAS spirit for Waugh Foundation Fundraiser.
I met with all of the boarders after Chapel last week to share some of my goals for this year and to clarify some expectations. The two goals of most interest to boarders are to provide a variety of engaging recreational opportunities on weekends and to establish effective channels of communication for boarders.

The benefits, and appeal to boarders, of an enhanced recreation program are obvious. We want our boarders to be busy and entertained on weekends. While allowing for ‘down time’ it is important that boarders are not idle for too long. Apart from the pure enjoyment we hope to provide, the activities on offer should also work towards developing a sense of community or contribute to an individual’s personal development. The ultimate goal is to have a schedule of activities that boarders can sign up for each weekend. Heads of House may still organise activities that target particular year groups but we would like to offer a menu of options for boarders. It is very important to me that boarders have input into the recreation program for a number of reasons. Most importantly, it should be their program filled with activities they want to do. By including them in the planning and organisation of activities, they are also learning useful skills.

I met with all of the House Captains and Vice Captains last night and my intention is to meet regularly with this group. These meetings will provide an important vehicle for boarders to engage in meaningful communication. I am very keen for boarders to have ownership of their boarding experience and to assist us, not just with solving problems, but introducing new initiatives that will benefit all boarders. I have encouraged the Captains to promote this idea within their Houses. They shared some great ideas during our discussion and I have no doubt there are plenty of other good ideas floating around.

You would have received an email from Mrs Meg Sadler regarding travel bookings for the Easter Break and the end of Term 1 vacation. Can I please ask you to let Meg know as a matter of urgency if your son or daughter will require coach or train travel.

Mr Michael Holland
Last week saw girls heading out on Activities days and while the day itself was hot, the girls made sure they threw themselves into the various opportunities. I had the pleasure of being with the senior cadet girls - Platoon 7. The excitement of getting into uniform and being issued with army kit was almost tangible! The feedback I received from the various groups was very positive; the cadets came back in high spirits from their hoochy construction and canoeing, the RFS crew with stories of their learning and about how hard it was to carry the hoses and the life saving girls talked about a long bus drive, being exhausted but pleased by their day on the beach. On Monday I was at the Co-ed Expo and hearing Hannah in Year 7 share with a prospective student that ‘Activities Day was awesome’, did my heart good! Activities Day 2…only three sleeps to go!

On Sunday the girl boarders headed out for a wander and a barbecue at Dangar Falls. The day was beautiful, and while some had needed a little convincing, it was clear that the sun, the exercise, the stunning views and the chance to belt our tunes in the bus, was appreciated by everyone. Pip Warrick was kind enough to be our bus driver and was a fount of knowledge as she drew on a past life as a passionate geography teacher to explain the area. Ben Meret, a French language assistant who arrived the day before, also joined our merry gang and added to our cultural mix! It was a lovely morning out and hopefully the first of many Dangar outings into some of the beautiful areas around Armidale.

A hot topic of debate since I arrived has been rules for girls in terms of hair, jewellery and make up. In fact, one of the first conversations I had in Armidale was about these topics! It was felt by most that the rules we have in place were a great start, but needed some change and clarification as we began to expand. Both Year 12 girls, as as well as staff, have been given the opportunity to add their ideas. Who would have thought that jewellery and ‘how to wear your hair’ could generate passionate responses! Over the coming week, the policies will be refined, formalised and a final version will be published in TASTalks. My hope is that this will provide a clear set of guidelines for our TAS girls. Watch this space!

Miss Alex Pollitt
LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND ADVENTURE

Cadets - Activity Day 2 - 25-26 February

Activity Day 2 commences with a back brief by the SUO and Coy Commanders to the CO MAJ Thatcher on Monday 22nd Feb at 1.30pm.

A briefing will be delivered to all cadets on Tuesday 23rd Feb during Period 3 (normally Assembly).

Cadets in 2, 5, 7 & 8 Platoon plus Rangers will all be out over night on Thursday 25th Feb.

All platoons will be dismissed on Friday ay 3.30pm.

A Coy

1 Platoon - Gara Gorge
Abseiling/Prussic
Rope Activity
Field Lesson

2 Platoon - Claremont
Overnight bivouac
Navigation / Trekking
Fieldcraft
Harbour

3 Platoon - Dumaresq Dam
Kayaking
Raft Construction
RATERL

B Coy

4 Platoon - Dumaresq Dam
Canoeing – C2
First Aid / RATERL
Bush cooking

5 Platoon - Peatfields Overflow
Overnight bivouac
Platoon Harbour
Ration Cooking & Hygiene
TASCU/Customs

6 Platoon - UNE Property 'Kirby'
Navigation / Trekking
Navigation Training
Team Building & Initiative Exercise
Engr Task

SPT Coy

7 Platoon (Girls) - UNE Property 'Kirby' & Dumaresq Dam
Overnight bivouac
Campcraft
Field lessons
Canoeing & Rafting

8 Platoon (Advanced) - Nymboida
Overnight bivouac
Canoeing in Boyd River

Rangers (Year 7) - UNE Property ‘Kirby’
Overnight bivouac
Campcraft
Field lessons

The following students are required for overnight Thursday and all day Friday:

T. Price (jnr)
J. Fernandez (jnr)
J. Sewell (Jnr)
L. Smith (jnr)
N. Farrar (snr)
H. Smith (snr)
S. Marshall (snr)
A. Smith (snr)
A. Mazzei (snr)
A. Ziesemer (snr)
Community Service at TAS

As a Round Square school, TAS has a holistic approach to learning built around the six IDEALS; International, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership and Service. Each student is encouraged to perform a substantial number of service hours, either in school-sponsored, regional or international projects. As such, taking part in Community Service is an important part of being a TAS Student.

Students in Years 7-12 are expected to complete 20 hours of community service, while Year 6 is to complete 10 hours.

On page 23 of your diary you will find your community service record page. Please use this page. You will need to have it signed by the organiser of your Community Service and by Ms Boydell. This is just to make sure your Advisor knows the hours are authentic. Your Advisor will record your hours on the Community Service Data Base, and these will be printed on your semester report.

At TAS there are several ways you can complete your community service hours.

1) Take up opportunities provided by TAS e.g. Big Band and Ensemble performances, Cadet Guard Community services, Minimbah visits, assist at the TAS Rugby Carnival, assist at school functions - car park attendant, waiting on tables at School formal functions, Hawkesbury Canoe Classic fundraising, Tour de Rocks fundraising, Fiji service trip, Thailand service trip, Kyck (Katoomba Youth Convention) service etc.

2) Arrange to complete your hours privately e.g. Assist at your old primary school, assist at a local not-for-profit community organisation e.g. pony club, Agricultural Show Society, Clean Up Australia with Mum and Dad etc.

3) Take up Armidale community opportunities advertised through TAS e.g. Red Shield Appeal, Autumn Festival volunteer, Armidale City Band Fundraiser, Armidale Alligators Swimming Carnival volunteer etc.

How do you know if your activity is actually a Community service?

a) You must volunteer.

b) The community must benefit from your help (not a business/parent/private organisation).

c) You must not earn money.

If you have a Community Service in mind, please come and see Ms Boydell to see whether it meets the criteria. Remember work experience or working in Mum and Dad’s business for no pay is not Community Service.

Commitment to your community through service certainly says a lot about your character.

Ms Catherine Boydell

Activities Day 1 - Year 7 Rangers

Day 1 was an introduction day for the new crop of Year 7 Rangers. Uniforms were issued, section commanders met and a strong focus placed on learning to work together with the others in your group. Successful team work requires ideas, being prepared to listen to others and cooperation - all valuable skills for life. Rangers treated mock snake bites, played initiative games, were introduced to radio conventions and more. A hot but good day. Our next Activities Day is this week and for us, is an overnighter. Rangers will leave after school on Thursday afternoon and be dismissed by 3:30 on Friday. Our Tuesday briefing will provide information about what to bring and what we will be doing.

Ms Fiona Taber
OIC Rangers
Round Square International Conference 2016– Aiglon College, Switzerland

Applications will be called for in the next fortnight for those Year 11 students who are interested in attending the Round Square International Conference in Switzerland in the first week of Term 4 this year (9-14 October). The delegation size is five (5) students.

The theme of the conference is ‘The Journey that Makes Us’—a focus locally as this area is full of physical opportunities to journey but also internationally, the mass migration we are seeing right now across nations – will provide challenging points for discussion and attract keynote speakers with personal experiences of their own.

Prior to the conference we will be embarking on a pre-conference experience/s. We are unable to confirm this at present but it will definitely involve some mountain hiking in Switzerland.

Website:
The conference website www.rsic2016.org is now live so please take a look. Conference fees are paid for by The Armidale School.

Application forms will be made available in due course.

ROUND SQUARE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECTS (RSIS)

Every year the Round Square organisation run four (4) Service Projects for students in Round Square schools around the world – India, Peru, Cambodia and South Africa.

This is open to students 16 years or older and generally run in July and December. If you are interested in finding out more about these opportunities, please see Mrs Barnier or check out the Round Square website: www.roundsquare.org
TAS welcomed almost 150 visitors on Monday who came to learn more about the school for their sons, daughters, and themselves at Scholarship and Co-Ed Expo Day. In Memorial Hall, 50 boys and girls (including eight current students) sat the academic scholarship exams whilst 75 adults and children not sitting the exam listened to presentations from the Headmaster, Director of Studies, Director of Co-Curricular, Director of Boarding and Director of Enrolments in the Hoskins Centre. After a quick bite to eat visitors were taken on tours of the school and had the opportunity to discuss specific aspects of the school including Junior School, academics, girls’ and boys’ boarding, co-curricular, pastoral care and leadership, service and adventure with key staff. A number of families attended a more informal afternoon session (4-6pm) which also included personal tours of the school. The families who attended expressed genuine interest in their children attending TAS.

The event is a major one in attracting new students to the school and is the first time many families come to TAS. As usual, it did not disappoint! On behalf of the Enrolments and Development offices, thanks to all the staff who contributed to its success: those who ensured the grounds were looking their best, kitchen staff, house duty staff, those who were on booths, the presenters, tour guides, Hoskins and tech staff, and many others.

Mr Tim Hughes
The Journey

They train like warriors for a seven minute race. Every stroke they take is focussed on making the boat go faster. They look at the back of the man in front of them with a singular focus; must move as One. Yet there is so much more to be gained, for in the process of striving for boat speed some amazing attributes are forged.

Few sports demand greater need for synchronisation, for total faith and trust in your teammates. In a 2000 metre race, each member of the crew lifts his body weight over two hundred times and hurls it towards the finish line, pushing himself to new physical limits. This takes incredible resolve and determination.

Add to this the context in which they compete. They muster at the bus on Friday afternoon, fresh from cadet bivouacs, surf life saving and studies to drive for six-and-a-half hours, sleep for five-and-a-half and wake to race crews from GPS, CAS and ISA schools in Sydney. It is as much a battle of will as physical strength. Whilst far from ideal preparation there is no doubt that it builds resilience and encourages organisation and time management.

The race begins 2000 metres from the start line. Crews manage the congestion on the pontoons and navigate the traffic down to the start. A loose nut or a faulty wheel can spell disaster in a race and all equipment is checked, cleaned and re-checked. Such an environment demands routine but also initiative; recognising that a job needs doing and getting in there and doing it. Whilst the coach is there to guide them, once they are on the water their captain is a 50kg giant, who takes responsibility for the boat and everyone in it. The coxswain is the coach, the mentor, the motivator; the mind, the heart and the soul of the crew.

As in all sports the outcome does not always follow the script and crews must evaluate their performance, pick themselves up, persevere and carry on.

What motivates someone to put themselves through this torture? I believe it is the realisation that the harder you work, both mentally and physically, the greater the gain. Not just a faster moving boat but a stronger team and better people in it.

At days end, all riggers stacked
All oars are hung, and boats are racked.
The sound of laughter, cheerful song
Proclaiming, as they journey on,
Youth and Life and all that’s great,
The loyalty and love of mates.
Sydney Rowing Club Regatta

All three crews competed in the Sydney Rowing Club Regatta last Saturday 20 February, at the Sydney International Regatta Centre. This regatta provides crews with the opportunity to experience the course that they will compete on at the Head of the River on 12 March. Whilst we are just off the pace, the boys are optimistic about their progress. They are still on the steep part of the improvement curve and ready to make their final charge!

Girls Rowing Open Day

The journey for TAS female rowers begins at 6am on Saturday 19 March. We will be conducting a rowing taster at Malpas Dam for girls in years 9-11. This is an opportunity for girls to experience the joys of rowing and will assist us in developing the direction of girls rowing in the 2016/2017 Summer season. All girls wishing to attend should register their interest by emailing dcc@as.edu.au by Wednesday 9 March.

Girls Rep Hockey

The CIS Secondary Girls 16 and Under Hockey Championship is on 29 March. NCIS would love to send a team down again. We have a number of rep girls still eligible to play again this year and are very fortunate to have Margie Coleman and Sharon Buchanan, who have coached and managed the team the last few years, volunteering again. There will be Trials and Training sessions on 13 & 20 March at 9-11am at the Ballina Turf for interested girls. Please register your interest by contacting dcc@as.edu.au by 4 March.

Summer Photos

Photos are an important record of activities at TAS and should include all participants. Please refer to the schedule below to ensure that you are part of history!

Athletics Pre-Events

Due to Easter being early this year we are condensing the Athletics Pre-Events into two days.

The first of these will be Wednesday 16 March, commencing at 1:15pm with the Cloister’s Run. Parents are most welcome to attend and are encouraged to be in the Quadrangle by 1pm to gain a good vantage point. The program will then continue after lunch through to 5:30pm, with field and track events on Wakefield.

The second day will be Monday 21 March, 3:45 - 5:00pm.

All remaining events will be run at the Carnival on Wednesday 23 March. A full program of events will be available shortly.

NCIS Football

It is easy to think we who play the world game are far from experiencing football on that sort of scale. However, this is far from the truth. The students at TAS have some of the best and direct lines of representative opportunity available to any footballers in the district.

During the holidays the First XI football team will travel to Sydney and be exposed to two top-flight schoolboy teams and experience the expertise of a full time and high profile coach.

But even more exciting and closer again is the opportunity that some will have to trial for representation in the North Coast Independent Schools Sports Association Football teams. If any of our senior players make this team they need to realise that it will be some of the highest quality football, on the best pitches available in Sydney, that any of them will ever have. In making the NCIS team, they play in the CIS Football carnival, whereby the CIS team is selected. From last year’s CIS team we had the most successful campaign to date, with seven players making the NSW Schoolboys team and two selected as shadow players, and five going on to make the Australian Schoolboys team who will compete on the world stage. These opportunities are real and close at hand, our footballers should strive to make selection and be excited by the possibilities.

Mr Richard Newton
Director of Coaching
TAS Football
Shooting

Smallbore shooting is on this Wednesday.
No smallbore Thursday due to overnight bivouac for many of the cadet platoons.

No smallbore Friday as fullbore is on Saturday.

Fullbore shooting starts this Saturday at Wollomombi. We meet at the armoury at 7.30am and will be back at school at 2.30pm. Max Tavener will cook lunch at the range. Please visit the Shooting website to download the Term 1 Shooting program any other useful information.

Mr Thatcher

Cricket

It was a very busy weekend of Cricket last weekend with a full round of matches and a catch-up game for our Seconds teams on Sunday. Most of the TAS teams still in contention for the Semi-Finals and Finals had important wins last weekend. It is the last round of matches for our Open's teams with our First X1 and TAS Blue Seconds team needing a victory this weekend to have a chance of reaching the Semi-Finals. Come along and support the players this weekend.

Thank you to all the people who supported the Pink Stumps Day last Saturday. It was great to see many of the players wearing Pink and donating to the McGrath Foundation.

Good performances this week.
Sam Weston 79
Piers Beesley 68
Cameron Patrick 63
Oliver Shannon 61
Harri Jackson 53
George Miller 40
Alistair Galbraith 38
Liam Donaldson 37
Kieran Dennis 37
Henry Smith 31
Jack Evans 4/37
Piers Beesley 3/24
James Hartog-Smith 3/14
Lachlan Thomas 3/35
Liam Donaldson 3/40
Liam Donaldson 2/8 off 8 overs

Please use the following link to view the Cricket Draw for this week.

Mr Allan Moore
MIC Cricket

ADNA Netball Registration, 2016

It’s time for all TAS netballers, including NetSetGo players, to register for the 2016 season. Note that players are required to register online this year. All TAS players will register under the ADNA umbrella as our club.

• If you have played previously you should have already received an email with your MyNetball ID and a password. If you have not received this email, please email me at ktamming@as.edu.au asap so that I can arrange for you to be sent these details.

• Any new players to netball in should complete the First time participant section.

Please go to ADNA: Online Registration to register.

Once you have registered your child, please print your registration form to keep as proof of registration. There is no need to pay when you register, as TAS Players will be charged through their school account.

Ms Kathryn Tamminga
Coordinator of Netball

Year 6 basketball

The Year 6 team had a really successful training last Wednesday, thanks to three Yr 12 students who helped out with some shooting practice. In particular Jacob Faint has been consistently helping out with drills and skills each week and we thank him enormously. The training was really beneficial and it worked! We had our second win of the season - and it was a solid win. Every player scored a basket and was fully involved. In particular Alexander Zuber used his height to great advantage in both defense and attack. He scored half the baskets and prevented many being scored. Karen Baker scored the first basket and was a dynamo in defense. Casey Smith continued her fantastic shooting skills and has stepped up her attacking skills. Hugo Catterall made numerous runs up the court and finally scored in the last few minutes of the game which was very exciting. Byron McCann has worked hard on his shooting and it is paying off. He scored several baskets and had great success in finding team players to off load to. Harrison Ditchfield has worked hard at his defense and also used his height to advantage to prevent the opposition from scoring.

A wonderful team effort that saw all players come off the court with big smiles. Well done all.

Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon
Join the Junior School Guitar Group!

Our wonderful classroom music teacher, Mrs Butcher is running a group guitar lesson at lunch time on Fridays for Junior School students. This a great way for our younger TAS students to become involved in guitar lessons and learn about being part of an ensemble.

If your son or daughter would like to join this group lesson or even have individual guitar lessons at TAS with one of our other guitar tutors, please complete the enrolment form below and return to us in the Music Office at TAS. Alternately, email it through to sbroadbe@as.edu.au.

Enrolment Form

NECOM Year 9 & 10 Music Day and the HSC Music Workshop are on in a fortnight!

Elective Music students in Years 9 & 10 will be attending a full day workshop on Wednesday 9 March at the Old Teachers College which is offered by NECOM for students in the New England region. The HSC Music Workshop will be held on the following two days - Thursday 10 and Friday 11 March.

All arrangements for students to attend these workshops will be made by the Creative Arts Administrator and permission emails will be going out to parents this week. Please see information below.

HSC Music Workshop

Year 10 Music Day Flyer

Yours in Music

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mrs Baumgartner and Mrs Broadbent.
Juggling the demands of sporting commitments, Cadet leadership activities and their academic demands, the cast continues to work tirelessly on Bye Bye Birdie. I am always stunned by the dedication displayed by young people involved in performances and this wonderful cast is no different. On top of weeknight rehearsals and long sessions on Sunday we have many cast volunteers coming to help with the set and props, which makes the show that much more rewarding. I also again thank our team of volunteers working on the costumes (and encourage you all to come along 1pm on Sunday if you think you can help out) who are ensuring that the actors are going to look striking on the stage.

In two weeks some of the cast of Bye Bye Birdie will be headed up to Guyra by special invite to perform at the Guyra Shire Home Support Services Seniors Ball. Having last performed excerpts from West Side Story in 2014, it is great for our students to again be able to share their talents with an excited audience and give back to the community.

Tickets for Bye Bye Birdie continue to sell, with seats only available on the balconies for Closing Night and only a few tickets left in the main body for Friday evening’s performance. There are still seats available for the Opening Night on Thursday and Friday’s Matinee and tickets can be booked through the Hoskins Centre website. Don’t miss your chance to see this wonderful Broadway classic and enjoy the wonderful work and performances of our talented cast and design team.

ADMS’ series of staged play readings continues and this Friday and Staurday at ‘Stro, UNE will be the classic Les Liaisons Dangereuses. The show starts at 7:30pm and tickets are just $15 at the door. And more information will be coming out about Season 2016 at the Hoskins Centre and the calendar of performances the venue will be home to this year. Keep a fresh eye on the Hoskins Centre website as new and upcoming events are always being advertised.

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

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH HAL LEONARD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Engagement

One of the most challenging and, ultimately, enjoyable aspects of my job is student interview. I’m not referring to formal interview either; rather, I refer to those talks I have every day with individuals who come to my office to speak to me. The fact that they are beginning to arrive of their own volition is encouraging for me. Today, for example, three of our youngest students came to inform me they’d done something wrong out in the grounds one lunch break. They spoke, I listened and then we discussed a method of remedying the damage, basically involving letters of apology to a number of others and a willing acceptance of some extra duties around Middle School and the cricket nets. Then they went away – happily, too.

Why am I telling this to you? Misdemeanor aside, I am pleased that they came because they feel comfortable enough to do just that! They spoke to me as a person, not just a teacher. Our job, first and foremost, is to provide an environment that needs, as much as is practicable, to parallel the home situation. It’s an environment characterized by trust; an environment that’s relevant and one in which students feel able to speak freely to us about issues that concern them. As I indicated to prospective parents in the Co-ed Expo speeches, we must look out for the needs and interests of young people who, by virtue of age and inexperience, will make mistakes. On the proviso that they are confident enough to admit to having done the wrong thing and that they’ll do their best not to ‘do it again’, then I’m confident that what we’re trying to do is beginning to succeed.

As I indicated last week, we’re continuing to make progress. Classes are, as a general rule, both settled and reasonably happy places. I enjoy the Middle School: students can be naughty at times, but I’ve not met a bad one yet. In order to find their place in relation to others, especially their peers, they are going to make mistakes, learn from them (with our help, of course) and become better as people as a result.

Expectations

We’ve reached that ‘pointy’ part of term. Students are amazingly busy and this is as it should be, but they’re showing signs of weariness as well. Please, when speaking to them, would you acknowledge this fact and advise your children that sometimes when we are tired we say and do things to others that people, for whatever reason, take exception to... In fact, if there’s nothing pleasant or positive to say, especially, say nothing at all.
This is one of those lessons we all learn as we grow up and now's the time for our students to start learning it or having it reinforced. I've indicated, both in Town Meetings and Boarding times, that one of the surest signs of increasing maturity is the ability to accept others for who they are, regardless of our personal opinions – on the proviso that those others don't interfere with our enjoyment of 'self'. There's so much variety in the Middle School and, within reason, I want to keep it this way.

I've written about him before, but I want to write about Dewey again. He makes a strong case for the importance of education not only as a place to gain content knowledge, but also as a place to learn how to live. In his eyes, the purpose of education should not revolve around the acquisition of a pre-determined set of skills, but rather the realization of one's full potential and the ability to use those skills for the greater good. He notes that "to prepare them for the future life means to give them command of themselves; it means so to train them that they will have the full and ready use of all their capacities" (My Pedagogic Creed, Dewey, 1897).

In addition to helping students realize their full potential, Dewey goes on to acknowledge that education and schooling are instrumental in creating social change and reform. He notes that "education is a regulation of the process of coming to share in the social consciousness; and that the adjustment of individual activity on the basis of this social consciousness is the only sure method of social reconstruction".

Dewey advocated for an educational structure that strikes a balance between delivering knowledge while also taking into account the interests and experiences of the student. He notes that "the child and the curriculum are simply two limits which define a single process. Just as two points define a straight line, so the present standpoint of the child and the facts and truths of studies define instruction."

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Year 6 and Year 7 Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday 3 and Friday, 4 March in the Memorial Hall.

Information will be sent out this week detailing the process and includes an individualised username and password so parents can book their interviews on-line. If you can't attend these sessions, please don't hesitate to make contact with either your child's teachers or you can contact Mrs Alison Evans on 6776 5819 or email middle@as.edu.au.

Middle School Social

The first Middle School social of the year will be hosted by TAS this Friday, 26 February in the Memorial Hall from 7pm to 9pm. Students are asked to meet at 6:50pm in front of the Hall for roll call. There will be a charge of $5 per student, which will be debited to your school account. Students are to wear smart casual clothing. We appreciate you promptly collecting your child at 9pm.

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School
Tezukayama – Visit to Japan in December

For over 20 years, TAS has been fortunate to establish a very close relationship with Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School in Osaka, Japan. This association has provided opportunities for excursions for both schools and some fantastic cultural, social and educational experiences for students and teachers alike. A letter has been sent home to the families of those in Years 4, 5 & 6. For planning purposes, please contact the school if you are interested in participating in this wonderful cultural exchange, or email junior@as.edu.au for further information.

Armidale Autumn Festival on March 19.

While the firm arrangements are yet to be released by Armidale Dumaresq Council, this year, we are aiming to have all our Junior School students and teachers attend the Saturday March 19 from 12.30 pm as part of the TAS float and march past. This year’s theme “Armidale’s Own Legends of Sport” provides us with a great opportunity to the march past in a creative and colourful way. Please place this date in your diaries and we will contact you soon with further details and information as it comes to hand. The relevant website can be found at http://www.armidale.nsw.gov.au/community/autumn-festival

Drama Club K – 2 & 3 – 5

I have been asked to draw your attention to these clubs now operating after school with Mrs Leasa Cleaver. 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 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 are available from the Junior School reception.
Trinity Drama

Trinity Speech and Drama lessons are available to TAS students in all years using the internationally recognised Trinity College London syllabus. Subjects 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.

Interested parents should contact Sarah Broadbent (sbroadbe@as.edu.au) and permission forms are available from the Junior School reception.

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.

Arrival and Departure of Students at TAS

We all have heard of tragic situations where accidents have occurred involving young children and cars. This is a issue we take very seriously here at TAS and we ask all drivers to take special care when on campus. The Chapel St Turning Circle system of pick up and drop off is not a complex one but at times of high usage, it requires care and patience. Please follow the instructions on the signs and understand the system – please ask if it is unclear. After school and sport, a teacher is on duty but this is not the case before school. If you have concerns because of any issue that occurs, please contact me with the details and I will follow it up. The consequences of not doing so are not worth considering.

In addition, it is imperative that students are collected from us by an adult who has the written authority to do so. At times, if this is not to be the case, contact must be made to inform us of changed arrangements. I have asked staff not to proceed with any arrangement if they are not certain that it has been sanctioned by the School. Please help us avoid confusion and delay by ensuring the School has your intentions in writing if you are not collecting your son or daughter in person.

Mr Ian Lloyd
Head of Junior School

Looking Ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24 March</td>
<td>Year 3 Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 February</td>
<td>Schools ‘Clean Up Australia Day’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 29 February</td>
<td>NCIS Swimmers Depart at Lunch for Lismore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 March</td>
<td>NCIS Swimming at Lismore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2 March</td>
<td>Year 2 Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3 March</td>
<td>Founders Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9 March</td>
<td>Year 1 Assembly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Hours

A reminder school hours are 8.45am – 3.30pm

Students should not arrive at school prior to 8.15am when we have supervision in our playground unless attending one of the Clubs the school provides. Classes start at 8.45am and it is beneficial for children to be here 10 minutes prior to say hello to friends and then move into the classroom together.

Uniform

The Junior School is doing it’s best to ensure the School uniform is worn correctly and we would like the support for families as we endeavour to change some poor practice that is creeping in. Shirts need to be tucked in, socks pulled up (garters are available for purchase from the Uniform Shop) and ties worn correctly. Wearing the uniform correctly shows pride in ourselves and our School.

Allergies

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

Please Label all clothing

As the Year gets underway, please check all old clothing is still labelled and that all new clothing has been labelled. Having everything labelled is very important for items to be returned to the rightful owner should they be misplaced.

2016 Consent form

Please complete the consent form and return the school as early as possible. Families should have received a follow up email with the consent form attached.

If you did not receive the email download from the parent portal at the Junior School website.

Armidale Show – 26 & 27 February

The Armidale Show is open for entries in many categories this year. This wonderful local event relies so much on the community for its future. While some classes will use this opportunity to include some classwork where they can, please encourage your children to enter into the “children’s work” section of the Armidale Show this year or any other category that takes their fancy. You are able to take students work to the Show on Wednesday and families are able to collect on Sunday morning before 12 noon. For entry forms and further information please visit the Armidale Show website.

Good luck to all who enter and please let us know any results you might have achieved.

Premiers Reading Challenge 2016

We are again running the PRC in 2016. Even though the Challenge officially runs from 7 March to 26 August 2015, books read from 1 September 2015 can be counted towards this year’s challenge.

If you would like to participate in the 2016 PRC please come and see myself, Mrs Allan or Mrs Ramazani in the Library so we can give you a permission note for your parent/guardian to sign giving you permission to participate in the Challenge this year.

If you are new to TAS but have completed the challenge before at another school, I will need to know which school it was and your password details so I can change you over to TAS.

The booklets for the 2016 PRC will be handed out to those who have handed in a permission note.

I won’t be able to register you online for the 2016 PRC until March, 2016 so you will need to keep your Reading Log in a safe place until we can start entering your books.

Please see the table on the following page so you know how many books to read in each Challenge.

The PRC website has all the book lists for you to look up: CLICK HERE.

One very important rule to remember is about the series books - In an approved series, any two books from the series can be read as part of official PRC reading. Up to five other books from the same series can be read as personal choice books.

We keep a full copy of the book lists in the Library for K-2, 3-4, 5-6 & 7-9 challenge lists. We have also marked the books that we have from the lists with a PRC sticker - the K-2 stickers are red, the 3-4 stickers are green and the 5-6 stickers are purple and are located on the spine towards the bottom of the book. If you don’t know what to look for just ask Mrs Allan, Mrs Ramazani or myself and we will be able to help you. I will be entering the books online for you from your reading log.
From March, it would be helpful if you could bring your reading log to the Library during your weekly Library lesson so I can check on your progress and enter the books you have read. If any parents have any questions you can email me on jranck@as.edu.au, phone the Library 6776 5833 or call into the Library and see me on Monday, Tuesday and every second Wednesday. All the information, rules & book lists can be obtained on the above website.

Please download the Readers Challenge permission form HERE

Happy reading everyone!
Mrs Janine Ranck
PRC Coordinator

Chess Club
Chess Club is in full swing! Every Tuesday morning (8:15-8:45), the Chess Club meets in the E & E room. All levels of expertise are welcome, from Beginners to budding Chess whizzes. Middle School students attend 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!

Mrs Anne Hine

Clubs
Clubs available during Term 1, 2016

Monday
Junior Vocal Ensemble 8am

Tuesday
Chess Club 8.10am
Bible Club
Drama Club K-2 3.45pm
Pottery Club K-2 3.30pm

Wednesday
TAS FanTASics 7.50am
Da Vinci Club 8.15am

Thursday
Pottery Club Years 3-6 4.00pm
Drama Club Years 3-6 3.45pm
PYP Update

This week the focus essential element will be knowledge.

It is important to remember that the Primary Years Programme (PYP) aims to achieve a balance between the acquisition of essential knowledge and skills, development of conceptual understandings, application of the attitudes and taking action.

Knowledge in the PYP can be viewed as significant, relevant content that teachers in the JS, including our specialist teachers and Librarian, want the students to explore and know about. An important aspect of this essential element is taking into account a student’s prior knowledge.

The Units of Inquiry (UOI) taught within the Junior School are aimed at promoting international mindedness from students through a trans-disciplinary approach to gaining new knowledge.

“To be a truly educated, a student must also make connections across the disciplines, discover ways to integrate the separate subjects, and ultimately relate what they learn to life” (Boyer 1995).

As was explained to parents at Parent Information evenings, the trans-disciplinary approach to teaching, learning and assessment enables many disciplines to be covered within one unit of inquiry. Within these units students are provided with opportunities to inquire into and learn about significant global issues. These units have a carefully planned scope and sequence from Transition through to Year 5, known as the programme of inquiry.

The units are categorised under the following themes:

Who we are
Where we are in place and time
How we express ourselves
How the world Works
How we organise ourselves
Sharing the planet

In order to facilitate the acquisition of new knowledge, each UOI aims to be engaging, relevant, challenging and significant.

Please remember that everyday is open day at TAS Junior School and you are more than welcome to come and visit our classrooms.

Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator

Year 2 and 3 had an awesome day at Thalgarah on Tuesday and certainly built on their knowledge base of adaptations made by living things in order to survive.

Year 5 have many questions to explore in our current UOI in order to increase and build upon their knowledge.
Minibasketball & Aussie Hoops

Armidale Basketball is introducing Aussie Hoops for primary school children. This is a structured training program aimed at teaching children and parents on the fundamental skills of basketball. All players begin at the beginning and progress up the ladder. This will be run in conjunction with the earlier Monday timeslot from 4pm and is open to all students in Kinder to Year 4. A brochure will be handed out at basketball to clarify the program and costs.

Minibasketball games for primary school players are still held on Mondays. Aussie Hoops will run from 4pm which involves all Kinder – Year 2 players, Years 3/4 can turn up for the 4pm training and this will be followed by a game at 4.50pm while Years 5/6 have their game at 5.40pm. All players need to turn up at the allotted game times. The training is optional for the Years 3&4 and Years 5&6 groups.

Miniball relies on the goodwill of parents to help out with scoring, coaching and organising uniforms. If you are willing to help your child's team on a regular basis, please put us know. Richard is extremely interested in getting helpers for the Aussie Hoops program from senior players and parents. This is a great way to learn the skills of coaching.

Our Junior School teams will therefore attend the training sessions at 4pm and then have their game after the training sessions at 4:50pm. Games will conclude by 5:40pm.

PSSA Results

Our competitors swam with enthusiasm and sportsmanship last Thursday at the town pool for the PSSA swimming carnival. TAS recorded some excellent results on the day with particular note of the following:

Tom Ball: 1st – 50m 10yr Free, Breast, Back and Fly
Iles Baker: 1st – 50m 9yr Free
Abbott White: 2nd 50m Breasts, 3rd 50m Back,
Charlie Ryan: 1st 50m 8yr Free

With our Junior boys relay team also coming 1st place. Tom Ball, Abbott White, Toby Inglis and Iles Baker

Well done team!

TAS Trouble - Miniball

In the second week of miniball, TAS Trouble and TAS Thunder participated in an afternoon with a different structure at The Den. It included a skills session from Aussie Hoops, and a game afterwards. TAS Trouble came up against PLC, and during this game we saw Calin Simmonds, Charlie Repin, Will Nash, Jasper O'Neil and Conal Nicoll come through with a victory. The boys are working well towards spreading out and passing the ball amongst each other. Well done boys.

Miss Phoebe Wood
Winter Sports nominations

This week, your child will bring home a Winter Sports Nomination form. Every child in Years 3-5 is required to select a TAS sport for Terms 2 and 3. Sport is optional, but encouraged for Years K-2.

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

Junior School Policy re Participation in Sport

All students in Year 3 and above will participate in sport. Students in Year 2 and below do not have to participate but are encouraged to do so. If students in Year 2 or below do participate, they must commit to the sport (including training sessions) for the season. During the winter terms, students will have one training per week in each sport. For winter, training will be on Monday afternoons from 3:45 – 5pm for most sports. Students provide their own clothing, footwear, mouth guards and shin pads. Registration and competition fees will apply to all sports and will be debited to parents’ accounts.

Sports offered:

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

Netball:

Both boys and girls can choose this sport. Training will be at TAS on Monday afternoons. Games will be on Saturdays, normally at 11am, on the Lynches’ Road netball courts.

NetSetGo - for players turning 7 yrs before 31 December 2016 - an 8 week program held on Saturdays at 12noon commencing in Term2. This is a skilled base program to introduce the children to netball. Registration cost – approx. $40

Netta - for players turning 8 or 9 years before 31 December 2016. Emphasis is on participation, trying out learned skills, the learning of new skills and sharing the play with others in the team. The rules are modified. Registration cost – approx. $90.

Primary Netball - Junior - players must be turning 10 to 12 yrs by 31 December, 2016. Competition games are held at Lynches Road Court commencing in late March at 11am. Full 15 minute quarters are played. Registration cost - $100

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

The U9 competition involves a format at UNE on Saturday mornings. The players will play a modified quarter field game. Cost, approx. $45. Training will be on WEDNESDAYS at UNE between 4 and 5pm. A bus will take and return students to this training.

The U11 competition will be held at the UNE synthetic pitches (full-field) on Friday afternoons. The children train at the UNE pitch on Wednesday afternoons. Competition fees, registration fees and UNE pitch fees are estimated to be about $130 for the season. Training will be on WEDNESDAYS at UNE between 4 and 5pm.

Rugby:

Rugby is available this year for Years 3, 4, & 5. The TAS Rugby Carnival is held on the first weekend of the Term 1 holidays (April 9 & 10) and is open for 11 & 12 year olds (only). Training is now being offered on Thursday and Friday afternoons, with compulsory attendance at one of these sessions for those wanting to play in the TASRC. Throughout Term 2 and 3, rugby training will be held for Yr 5 & 6 on Tuesdays. In Term 3, under the auspices of NSW Junior Rugby Union, a primary competition will be arranged and although the details are yet to be advertised, the games are usually held on Wednesdays at TAS.

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

Children will be making their choices this week. Please ensure your child selects two preferences 1 and 2.

Mrs Christine Wright

Tennis

The improvement in tennis skills is certainly evident as we approach the half-way point in our training sessions for the term.

Many have almost refined the ability to use forearm to hit the ball over the net and to ensure it stays in! Focus on the L shaped arm was reinforced through many drills today. All were keen to improve their ‘proper serves,’ with coach help available, to ensure the ball landed in the correct box.

Mrs Veronica Waters