HEADMASTER, MURRAY GUEST

Academic Assessment

This time of term is inevitably busy with assessment tasks and testing in Middle and Senior School and all students will be feeling the pressures that come with that. It is our approach at TAS to put formal assessment practices and policies in place from Year 6, complete with assessment calendars, the provision of two weeks written notice and study routines. The purpose in this is to establish patterns that will assist students in developing good academic habits, particularly related to methods of study and the importance of being well prepared for assessment tasks. This is something that parents can help with by being aware of the assessment calendar and speaking with their children about what is coming up and how plans to prepare for it are going. The same is true for homework generally as all students from Years 6 to 10 have homework timetables that are designed to help structure their work and I encourage students and parents to keep in communication about how homework and study are developing.

Swimming and Triathlon

Many of our best athletes have travelled to represent the School this week as our swimmers competed in Lismore yesterday in the annual North Coast Independent Schools Championships, our triathletes are in Sydney today for our first participation in the NSW All-Schools Championships and our 1st XI footballers will compete in the CIS knockout in Coffs Harbour tomorrow. All these events offer the opportunity for our most committed sportsmen and women to stretch themselves in competition with others who share their passion and each offers a pathway to higher representative competition. Providing and supporting a structure that presents these opportunities is central to our co-curricular ambitions and I offer thanks to our Director of Co-curricular Activities, Will Caldwell, and all the staff who make the commitment to ensure it happens.

Headmaster’s Country Tour

Next week our Director of Enrolments Pip Warrick, Director of Boarding Michael Holland and I will visit Inverell, Moree, Walgett and Narrabri on the first leg of the annual Headmaster’s Country Tour. The dual purpose of our travels is to hold enrolment interviews with prospective TAS families and meet socially with our school community in their own territory. The opportunity to meet with families away from the pressures of school activity is special and we see it as an important feature of our school calendar. I hope that families in the areas we are visiting will have seen the invitations to get together and I look forward to seeing all those who can make it.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Week 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3 March  Year 6 &amp; 7 Parent Teacher</td>
<td>Monday 7 March  Headmaster’s Country Tour</td>
<td>Monday 28 March  Boarders Return</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>(HMCT) (Inverell)</td>
<td>Tuesday 29 March  Classes Resume</td>
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<td>CIS Football Knockout (Bishop Druitt, Coffs</td>
<td>Tuesday 8 March  HMCT (Moree)</td>
<td>Wednesday 30 March  Headmaster’s</td>
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<td>Harbour)</td>
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<td>Country Tour (HMCT) (Gunnedah)</td>
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<td>Friday 4 March  Year 6 &amp; 7 Parent Teacher</td>
<td>Wednesday 9 March  HMCT (Walgett)</td>
<td>Thursday 31 March  Headmaster’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>NCIS Football</td>
<td>Country Tour (HMCT) (Tamworth)</td>
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<td>Year 9&amp;10 Music Day (NECOM)</td>
<td>Friday 1 April  Activities Day 3</td>
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<td>P&amp;F AGM (7pm)</td>
<td>Headmaster’s Country Tour (HMCT)</td>
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<td>(Glen Innes)</td>
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<td>Saturday 3 April  Coffs Harbour</td>
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<td>Ocean Swim</td>
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<td>Thursday 10 March  HMCT (Narrabri)</td>
<td>Thursday 17 March  Junior School Parent</td>
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<td>Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td><em>Bye Bye Birdie</em> Boarders Preview</td>
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<td>Friday 11 March  Year 12 Parent Teacher</td>
<td>Friday 18 March  <em>Bye Bye Birdie</em> Matinee</td>
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<td>Interviews (2-6pm)</td>
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<td><em>Bye Bye Birdie</em> (7pm)</td>
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<td>Saturday 12 March  GPS Head of the River</td>
<td>Saturday 19 March  <em>Bye Bye Birdie</em> (7pm)</td>
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<td>Sunday 20 March  <em>Bye Bye Birdie</em> (7pm)</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<td>Wednesday 16 March  Cloisters Run</td>
<td>Monday 28 March  Boarders Return</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29 March  Classes Resume</td>
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<td>Wednesday 30 March  Headmaster’s Country</td>
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<td>Tour (HMCT) (Gunnedah)</td>
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<td>Innes)</td>
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<td>Friday 18 March  <em>Bye Bye Birdie</em> Matinee</td>
<td>Saturday 3 April  Coffs Harbour Ocean</td>
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<td>(2pm)</td>
<td>Swim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 19 March  <em>Bye Bye Birdie</em> (7pm)</td>
<td>Weekly Calendar of Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 20 March  <em>Bye Bye Birdie</em> (7pm)</td>
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### Uniform Shop Holiday Hours

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>9.00 am to 5.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8 April</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22 April</td>
<td>9.00 am to 5.00 pm</td>
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### Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25 April</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26 April</td>
<td>9.00 am to 5.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 April</td>
<td>Normal hours resume</td>
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### Year 7 Vaccinations

A reminder that Year 7 vaccinations will occur at the Medical Centre on Thursday March 10. Please return your vaccination consent form before this date if you would like your son/daughter vaccinated.
The Armidale School Parents and Friends Associated Incorporated

The School Calendar has advertised the holding of the P&F AGM on Wednesday 9 March 2016 at 7pm.

Under applicable legislation for incorporated associations that was amended in 2010, the Committee of the P&F must ensure that annual general meetings are held within six (6) months after the close of the association’s financial year. In addition, at each AGM, the association’s committee must cause the association’s financial statements for the previous financial year (ending 31 December) to be submitted to the meeting.

To allow further time to complete the financial statements and in the interests of further developing a vibrant Committee, the 9 March meeting will be conducted as a general meeting (without AGM business) and the AGM will instead be held on a date in Term 2 (these being scheduled either for 11 May and 15 June 2016), with the following AGM business being then conducted:

• Election of Committee and office bearers
• Consideration of 2015 financial statements

Apologies for any inconvenience or disappointment caused.

In addition, the Committee is considering updating the association’s constitution (this would be voted on at a general meeting), and any parents wishing to be involved in this project, or just interested in joining the Committee, are welcome to contact the President or Secretary.

General Meeting

The above notice means that, as noted, the meeting scheduled for next Wednesday 9 March 2016 will be a General Meeting. It will be held in the Lower Maxwell Room at 7.00pm – all members of TAS P&F are welcome and indeed encouraged to join. Come along with some new social or fundraising ideas, or just come along. A major topic of discussion will be the TAS Rugby Carnival and our plans for activities over that weekend – the first weekend in the School Holidays 8 and 9 April. We will be looking for community service volunteers (Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and parent volunteers (Saturday and Sunday only). Parents, if you like getting in and getting things organised, this is the perfect opportunity for you! TAS P&F caters for the players and teams lunches, and also runs the canteen in McConville Centre and we can use all the help you can give. This is a major fundraising activity for the P&F and it is a sensational way of showcasing our school to over 1000 visitors across just one weekend.

Cooking up a storm

Swimming carnivals are done and dusted and all of your baking and buying efforts were appreciated by students and staff alike. And it’s time to do it all again! Athletics Championships are on in three weeks and we will be looking for your assistance again to help satisfy the munchies of our athletes and their supporters.

• Junior Athletics Championships – Tuesday 22 March
• Middle/Senior Athletics Championships – Wednesday 23 March

Mrs Sue Cartwright
Parent Teacher Interviews

Year 6 & 7 parent teacher interviews will be held this week Thursday 3 and Friday 4 March. Any questions should be directed to Mrs Alison Evans in Middle School - 6776 5817.

Information and login details have been sent to Year 12 parents in regards to parent teacher interviews which will be held on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 March. Information Sessions for parents will be held on Thursday evening, 10 March at 6.15pm and a repeated session will be held on Friday 11 March at 11.45am, both will be held in Big School. These information sessions will be conducted by Mrs Wark, Director of Studies and Mr Murray Guest. Please email vobrien@as.edu.au to indicate which parent session you will be attending.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs Vickey O’Brien 6776 5806.
Famous Last Words #3

2 Samuel 23

Washington, George (1732-1799) “It is well, I die hard, but I am not afraid to go.” Villa, Francisco `Pancho’ (1878-1923) “Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something.”

Narvaez, Ramon Maria (1800-1868) “I do not have to forgive my enemies, I have had them all shot.”

Great leaders obviously get that reputation from things they have achieved in their lives. On one’s deathbed we see what they hope for when they are gone.

The great King of Israel, King David, had unimpeded clarity as he approached death. He knew where his leadership had come from, he knew what made a successful leader, and it is a picture of great beauty, great beauty that he hopes can characterise Israel long after he has gone.

This is not always the word used when we describe leadership.

We can use words like self serving, power hungry, dominant, tyrannical - and that might be unfair for most of our leaders and in fact is the opposite of what we hope for, even what we vote for in our leaders.

Jim Collins, the Stanford University business analyst, and author of the book Good-to-Great, says, that the research has shown that one the two key characteristics of leaders that have moved businesses from good to great is humility.

What does the great King David say, as he departed this world? Leadership can be like a clear and cloudless sunrise. Its a picture of life and hope, this sort of morning fills us with optimism. It is refreshing and productive - it brings grass forth from the earth. This sort of leadership brings growth in its people, productivity, purpose, a sense of real value.

Where does this sort of leadership spring from? It is not from the books on how to become a great leader, it is not from a highly developed sense of self.

It springs from humility that acknowledges that God himself leads, he is the rock, and when we rest on him, when we lead with righteousness (I take it, that in this context that means lead with justice, to do the right thing, to behave in a manner beyond reproach) this is liberating for the people.

Interestingly, this is not how David always led. He had his moments, he acted in self serving ways that destroyed lives and undermined the nation. But none the less he could see, that only happens, when there is an absence of fearful respect of God.

When we can lead with an eye on God being our first witness and judge, we will lead with other’s interests at heart.

We recently appointed new leaders here at TAS, I hope you and all those who take leadership roles in this institution can lead in righteousness that comes from humility, that will make this good school great.
Rev Richard Newton warmly invites all TAS community, family and friends to celebrate Easter at a special contemporary-style service.

*Where: TAS Big School*

*When: Wednesday 23 March at 6.30 pm*

(a light meal will be served prior to the service from 5.45pm)

*A children’s activities program will be provided for young ones*

87 Douglas Street T 02 6776 5800 E rnewton@as.edu.au
Armidale NSW 2350 F 02 6776 5830 www.as.edu.au

*This service does not replace the traditional TAS Easter Service on Tuesday 22 March.*
The ABC programme ‘Australian Story’ has presented a two-part presentation on the life of David Pocock, the star flanker for the Australian Wallabies. It was fascinating on a number of different levels – his earlier traumatic experiences in Zimbabwe, his struggle with mental health issues subsequently, his rigorous and driven discipline (probably obsession) in relation to physical strength and fitness, his determination to overcome injury, and his developing awareness of ecological issues and the importance of taking a principled stand in relation to these, even at the risk of his Rugby career.

He emerged as a complex but admirable person, struggling with his own demons but also transcending his own self-interest. In recent times it seems he has sought and been helped by counselling. This last experience has enabled him to explore the emotional issues underlying his mental health challenges and to gain a better understanding of himself and the driving patterns in his life. His engagement with his country of birth and its issues has made him acutely aware of the deeper ways of expressing his values and humanity. He clearly is intent on making a difference in the lives of others.

What comes through most strongly is the importance of finding values and purposes in our lives that can take us beyond our selves, our passions and career trajectories. Some things matter more than success or self-interest. However gifted we are, however high we climb, there are always things that are more important. These are the core human values and connection to others that enable us to be more fully human. These can be expressed through our work and also through widening the ambit of our involvement with the world and the issues of our time. When it comes to the crunch, these values matter more than our achievements. Much more. The development of values is a dynamic process throughout our lives beginning in our school years. They tell us what really matters.

Mr Rob Hadfield
Chatting with new students

Last week, with some dust now settling and with even some honeymoon features of being at a new school waning, the School Counsellor (Rob Hadfield), Chaplain (Richard Newton) and I were able to chat to all new students in Years 9-12. It enabled the chance to illustrate core pastoral services and outline how students access support. While formal channels like the School Counsellor are important, we also spoke about the advisor system and then informal avenues, such as our academic, residential or sporting staff. The key message always is that we want students to feel comfortable to reach out to someone – whomever that might be.

We also spoke of the fundamental rights and responsibilities of all students, that is:

• The number one right of all students at TAS is to feel safe;
• The number one responsibility of all students at TAS is to ensure others feel safe.

To that end, we also chatted about relationships, about bullying especially and how to seek help when they or others are being mistreated. Students were also run through a definition of bullying also to affirm the importance of understanding exactly what bullying is.

So, at the risk of repeating what many in our community already know, for something to be considered a matter of bullying, the following must apply:

• The actions must be deliberate;
• The actions must be ongoing;
• The actions must involve an imbalance of power (older student/younger, larger/smaller, three on one etc);
• The actions must have hurtful consequences.

It’s tempting sometimes, when faced with some kind of conflict between two students, to leap to a conclusion of bullying – it’s often much more complicated than that. Finally, and related to this, the new students were introduced to the email address bullying@as.edu.au and encouraged to use it if they were uncomfortable with other options.

It was a lovely chat and it was great to see some of the goggled eyes of Week 1 now resembling those of students feeling comfortable within this new world. I’d like also to take this chance to let new parents know that the School Counsellor and Chaplain services are, where appropriate, available to you and that I can be contacted at any time about pastoral concerns you might have.
Last week saw a very successful Activities Day with students heading off campus to take part in Rural Fire Fighting, Cadets or Surf Lifesaving. It is great to see our students away from the classroom. Some, who might excel in the classroom, are challenged and others, who may not shine in the classroom, flourish and demonstrate their strengths. Either way, the experience is a valuable one and it brings balance to the lives of the students.

Balance, like community, is a word that I frequently use when speaking with boarders. Schools like TAS offer so many opportunities for involvement beyond the classroom. Many of these activities require significant commitment and can demand a lot of a boarder’s time. This dedication to a task, and the skills that are developed along the way, are certainly beneficial but balance is important. I constantly remind boarders that they are here first and foremost for an education. Classwork and prep are of primary importance and boarders need to prioritise academic work. This doesn’t mean that boarders should cut down on their other commitments but they should take a sensible approach and ensure their workloads are manageable. Making a schedule or plan will help them manage their various commitments. Busy students often perform well academically, as long as they have a plan and make effective use of their time.

Of course, there needs to be down time as well and the Armidale Show offered an excellent distraction over the weekend. I attended with my family and it was great to see so many familiar faces enjoying the rides, entertainment and show food. Henry Pitman (Year 8, Moree) was there with his family putting on a whip-cracking demonstration and he also managed to teach some boarders and staff how to wield a whip.

After a very busy start to the term, Year 12 Croft House students and staff shared a meal at PJ Thai last Thursday evening. Thanks must go to Mr Drain, Mr Currell and Mr Habib for organising the dinner and accompanying the students. Evenings like these are wonderful opportunities for staff and students to enjoy each other’s company.

I am looking forward to the Headmaster’s Country Tour, which kicks off next Monday. Mr Guest, Mrs Warwick and I will be visiting Inverell, Moree, Walgett and Narrabri to meet with families, present, past and prospective. We will also be visiting Gunnedah, Tamworth, Glen Innes and Scone between 30 March and 5 April. Information can be found on the TAS website and I hope to meet as many of you as possible over the course of these tours.
Henry Pitman - Whip cracking display at the Show

John Moore giving his own

Saturday - Show fun

Sunday afternoon - Inflatable fun
Girls Appearance Policy

Last year the committee responsible for the design of the TAS girls uniform, also made some initial decisions about dress code and appearance. The understanding at the time was that once 2016 was underway, we would make sure these rules actually worked for us all and to do that we entered into a general consultation with the girls and staff.

It gives me great pleasure to now communicate to the whole community the expectation we have about the appearance of our girls. We have to bear in mind that our girls have come from a range of schools across the state so their uniform experiences have been rich and varied. This process we have just been through was essential to ensure girls had a voice in the decision yet all debate was tempered within the framework of maintaining the TAS uniform standards.

While establishing clear rules was a priority, the overarching objective of these changes was to ensure TAS enhances confidence, happiness and wellbeing of girls as proud members of the school community.

After consultation and consideration this is the new policy relating to hair, jewellery and make up for girls.

Hair

- Hair should be a natural colour and be both clean and well kept.
- It must be off the face, and neatly tied back if shoulder length or longer.
- Ribbons do not have to be worn but if girls choose to wear ribbons then these must be plain navy or white.

Jewellery

- No facial jewellery is permitted
- Girls up to Year 8 can wear 1 set of either small gold silver studs.
- Girls in Years 9-12 can either wear small gold, silver or pearl studs or small gold or silver sleepers. However, girls may be asked to remove these during some sporting or co-curricular activities for health and safety reasons.
- Watches can be worn.
- No rings, wristbands or bracelets are to be worn, unless for medical purposes.

Necklaces are not to be worn, except for those that have religious significance. These should be discreetly tucked underneath the uniform.
Make up

- In Years 9-12 girls can wear a light covering of foundation and mascara.
- Clear gloss can be worn on nails, but no other adornments or colours.

Consequences

If extra jewellery is worn, the girl will be asked to remove the item. If extra jewellery is worn a second time it will be given to the GED (Girls’ Education Director) who will keep it for a week. If extra jewellery is worn on three occasions or more the item will be confiscated and held by the GED until the end of term.

If nail polish is worn or make up is deemed to be more than a ‘light covering of foundation and mascara’, the girl will be sent to the GED or the medical centre where she will remove it before returning to class.

If any rules are continually being ignored this will be dealt with by the GED and will likely result in kitchen duties or detention.

These rules will be communicated to the girls this week and then they will come into effect from Monday 7 March.

Miss Alex Pollitt
Girls’ Education Director
With my first opportunity to write in TAS Talks, I’d like to acknowledge what a busy and exciting start to the year it has been, still with many major events to look forward to in the last six weeks.

Already two activities days, sporting fixtures, assessment tasks, music and drama performances and excursions, coast weekend and the success of the swimming carnival and war cry night, highlight the strength of the school body as a whole.

The tone of the swimming carnival and the mass participation in the events, showed the great coherence of the school, especially that of the Year 12 group. Additionally, the commencement of the head shaves on war cry night and the carnival was a great success. $1794.90 has been raised towards the Steve Waugh Foundation and I thank all who have made contributions to this great cause.

The prefect body had the privilege to go to PLC for an afternoon tea last week, where we were introduced to the school leaders from other High Schools in Armidale. It gave us a great opportunity to build relationships with other leaders in the town and we thank PLC for hosting the event.

This weekend the prefect body is organising Borders Barbecue Dinner to be held on Saturday at the First XI cricket game, where they will be taking on Ex Services Club, in their semi final fixture in the local Armidale District Cricket Association, B Grade competition. The dinner will be at TAS oval around 5:00pm, and I encourage all parents and students to support our First XI in their match. To compliment this event, Alex Boulus will be getting his head shaved on the day and we urge all families and community members attending to make a donation and once again show their support.

Beginning this week is an Inter-house cricket competition. It will be held as three ‘round’ games involving all houses and having a final based on for and against for each game. This poses as another great opportunity to develop house spirit, and perhaps reveal some of the students’ hidden cricket talent. The prefect body looks forward to seeing the result of this event.

I hope everyone has enjoyed the first five weeks of school, and wish you all the best for the remainder of the term.

Jarrod Bourke
Deputy Senior Prefect
LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND ADVENTURE

Cadet Leadership Course - Promotions

Congratulations to the following cadets, having recently attended and completed the suite of junior, senior of CUO courses at UNE Army Depot, Danehurst and Kirby:

Promoted to Lance Corporal:
Jones, Ethan
Mitchell, Ryan
Palmer, Perry
Pointing, James
Whibley, Matthew
Woodburn, Patrick

Promoted to Corporal:
Atkin, Lucas
Barnier-Merzliakov, Nicholas
Broadbent, Oliver
Browning, Emerson
Cannington, Hamish
Claridge, Henry
Corderoy, Nick
Deshon, Thomas
Earle, Angus
Etheridge, Sebastian
Forsyth, William
Hamparsum, Ben
Leoni, Jasper
Lethbidge, Dan
Makeham, Nick
Mason, Henry (Harry)
McDouall, Hugh
Morgan, Thomas
O’Neil, Henry
Rorke, Luke
Russell-Thomas, Anthony
Sewell, Joe
Smith, Liam
Swales, William
Ward, Nicholas
Waters, Jack

Promoted to Sergeant:
Bohlsen, Nicholas
Cornall, Angus
Farrar, Nick
Graham, Harry
Hughes, Henry
Jackson, Nicholas
Marshall, Sam
Mazzei, Angus
Muller, Tully
Simmons, Baile
Smith, Angus
Smith, Henry
Vagg, Luke

Promoted to CUO:
Alcorn, Oscar
Donaldson, Liam
Giakoumi, Matthew
Murphy, James
Scott, Sebastian
Thatcher, Sam
Widders, Bailey
Wright, Tom

The following are in the process to complete the course:

CUO
Southwell, Tom

Senior
Ziesemer, Alex

Junior
Price, Thomas
Fernandez, Jacob
Oates, Lachlan
Tamworth Agricultural Careers Expo

Agricultural students from Years 11 & 12 will be given the opportunity to attend the TADCAN Agricultural Careers Expo at Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School on 9 June. Priority will be given to the senior classes, as seats on the school bus are limited. If students are interested they should inform Mr Ball who will record their names. See the flyer on the school’s Careers page for more information.

Women in Aviation

Tamworth Aero Club are holding a “Women in Aviation” day at the Tamworth airport on 13 March, for any young ladies who have considered a career in Aviation, as a pilot. There will several attractions and events for the day that are not only open to girls but boys are welcomed as well. For further information visit their website and/or have a look at the flyer on the school’s Careers page.

UTS Bachelor of Information and Technology Co-op Scholarship and Bachelor of Engineering and Technology Information evening

UTS is offering generous scholarships in the fields of Information Technology and Engineering as well information evenings. Please see the flyer on the school’s Careers page for more information.

UMAT

The Robertson Scholars Leadership Program. UNSW.

A very extensive scholarship giving students the opportunity to study in USA for four years at either Duke University or University of North Carolina. Very generous conditions and a fantastic opportunity for the right applicant. Please see the flyer on the school’s Careers page for more information.

Engineer Careers Guide

On the school’s Careers web page you will find a copy of the first two pages of a Guide for Careers in Aviation Engineering. The full document can found on the noticeboard outside Mrs Hutton’s office or I have a copy as well. If you have consider a career in this field please have a look at the booklet for more information.
Founders Day 2016

Every year the whole school celebrates Founders Day, which as the name suggests, is a day when we all get together to reflect on our past; on the very people and moments in our history that helped make TAS the school it is today. It is an initiative of the TAS Foundation whose role is to give financial support to TAS and was established over 30 years ago by enthusiastic Old Boys, parents and staff.

This year Founders Day will be held on Thursday 3 March and given this is our first year of full co-education throughout the school, we will be celebrating with a whole school photo in the Lawrance Quadrangle. And because it almost feels like a birthday party, we have cake for everyone on the day as well.

The photo below shows the image we are trying to capture and next week I will send the final photo taken with all staff and students. It will capture a moment of celebration in our history.

Blazers will be needed over the summer uniform for the photo please.

Thanks to all.

Ms Cressida Mort
I don’t care

Apathy is my shield. Indifference is my sword. I am protected from failure because I don’t care. While others around me struggle and strain, uncertain whether their efforts will be rewarded; the victims of broken dreams, I am safe because I don’t care. I don’t care whether I make the team, pass the test or get the part.

So why do I have this heavy feeling in my stomach and why is my heart racing? I know that my parents care, as do my friends, my teachers and my teammates. They are constantly telling me to “have a go”, “do your best”. Could it be that the nervousness I am experiencing is a sign that I also care?

Apathy will protect me from failure but it will also deprive me of success. My pride will not allow me to give up. Disappointment is part of life and should not destroy my dreams but rather strengthen my resolve to persevere, to fight, to drive and to grow. In the words of Thomas Edison: “I have not failed I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work”

My words may betray my true feelings but my conscience is not fooled. Deep down I do care. In fact I care a lot and I will do my best, come what may. I will strive and grow and if I fail I will pick myself up and try again.

Farrer Fixtures

Each year TAS competes against Farrer in a variety of sports, including rugby, football, tennis, basketball, chess and clay target shooting. This is a significant event on our co-curricular calendar and I am pleased to confirm that the fixture will be held at TAS this year on Thursday 9 June. This is the day prior to the June Long Weekend and it is hoped that this date will be convenient for families that want to support this event and then take their sons and daughters home for the weekend.

New Zealand Rugby Tour

Despite a bare minimum of players available for this year’s tour, the tour will go ahead. The next tour will be held in 2018 and will be open to the current Year 8 and 9 cohorts. The intention is to continue offering the tour every second year to two cohorts. In so doing we hope to balance this with other opportunities on offer and maintain a quality sustainable offering for rugby.
Team for TAS Rugby Carnival

Training will now commence in earnest for the TAS Rugby Carnival team. This event is an opportunity for players of all levels of ability and attracts some 50 teams from across NSW and Queensland. The experience remains a core memory for those who have been involved in the carnival over the past 11 years.

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.

Mr Will Caldwell

Rugby Referees Course

Australian Rugby Union (Ron Mancell) will be running Level 1 and Level 2 Assistant Referee courses this Saturday, starting at 9am.

Additionally, he will run through Game Management Guidance for 2016.

Meet at Bellevue Oval, UNE at 8.50am. The training runs through to 1pm.

Mr Trevor Thatcher

Cricket

Congratulations to our First XI and our Second XI Blue team for qualifying for the Semi-Finals in the Armidale competition. It is always a difficult proposition playing against experienced cricketers so it is a very good achievement. Although our First XI lost on the weekend they play the same team, Ex-Services again on Saturday. Come along to TAS Oval to support our players on Saturday. Our Second XI have been winning consistently over the last four weeks and are in good form to progress further in the Finals. They play their Semi-Final game at Newling Oval and would also love your support on Saturday.

I would also like to invite the school community to come along to the Sports Ground at 6pm on Friday 4 March to watch the best players in our Year 7-9 teams defend their title in the Junior TOAD Cup competition. We will play a very strong O'Connor team and the players would love to see you support the team.

Here is the squad for this weeks game.

Kieran Dennis (c)
Sid Nalliah
Lucas Atkin
Nick Corderoy
Jacob Fernendez
Cotter Litchfield
Toby Smith
Will Young
Liam Smith
Joe Alcorn
Andrew Kirk
Will Ellis

With the Under 12’s, Under 14 Yellow and Under 16 White looking like they may make the final if they win their last game of the season, cricket at TAS is looking healthy for the future.

Good Performances this week

Jack Evans 5/41
Liam Donaldson 3/14
Dom Pilon 3/18
Cotter Litchfield 2/7
Harry Deshon 2/8
Andrew Kirk 53 ret
Joe Alcorn 52 ret
Cotter Litchfield 48 no
Jonathan Frogley 43
Oliver Shannon 28

CRICKET DRAW WEEK 6
Governor General congratulates Isobel

Year 11 student Isobel Robertson not only won Grand Champion Parader at Guyra Show, but also was given the opportunity to meet the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove and discuss her cattle and interest in agriculture. The Guyra win follows her taking out the intermediate Grand Champion Parader at the National Angus Youth Round Up, and Reserve Champion at Bundarra Show. Photo: Guyra Argus

TAS Hockey AGM

Please be advised the TAS Hockey Club will be holding their AGM from 5pm Thursday 17 March in the McConville Centre. All existing players and families are welcome, as are those new to TAS Hockey.

Please forward any enquiries to Mr Alex Portell at aportell@as.edu.au or phone on 0458 006 053.

Mr Alex Portell

Good Luck…..

To our First XI Football who are playing in the CIS Football Knockout against Bishop Druitt College in Coffs Harbour this coming Thursday

and also to

Brent Rees and the Triathlon team who are in Sydney to compete in the NSW All Schools Triathlon over the next two days.

Congratulations…

To all of our swimmers who competed at the NCIS Swimming Championships in Lismore on Tuesday. Results to follow.

ADNA Netball Season, 2016 - Registration

A last reminder that all TAS netballers, including NetSetGo players, should have now registered for the 2016 season.

Please note:

- 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 in the next few days 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 – as we are under the ADNA banner this year, until we have our TAS teams up and running.
- Once you have registered your child, please keep a copy of 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 once all registrations have been finalised.

Ms Kathryn Tamminga
Coordinator of Netball

NCIS Football Championships

School footballers from schools within the North Coast Independent Schools Sporting association will again converge on TAS next Wednesday, 9 March to contest the 2016 NCIS Football Championships. This is the fourth year that TAS has hosted this carnival and is a significant event on the yearly football calendar. This year we welcome 21 teams from eight schools, culminating in around 40 games of football with well over 300 players taking to the field across the day. Teams will be competing in Primary Open girls and boys, and Secondary Open girls and boys. The championships will be trials for the combined NCIS teams, to play in the NSW Combined Independent Schools (CIS) competition.

Over the past few weeks, trials have been conducted and our TAS teams have been preparing well for the championships. TAS will be entering a Primary boys and Secondary boys team and we wish these teams well for an enjoyable day of football.

Mr Luke Polson
MIC TAS Football
NCIS Results

Ise Baker 2nd 50m Freestyle
Tom Ball 2nd 50m Free, 2nd 50m Back, 1st 50m Breaststroke
2nd 50m Butterfly
2nd 50m Butterfly
Joint 10yrs Boy Champion
Abbott White 2nd 50m Breaststroke
Karen Baker 2nd Breaststroke
2nd 50m Butterfly
Sam Ball 3rd 50m Butterfly
Clancy Roberts 3rd 50m Breaststroke
Sebastian Etheridge 3rd 50m Breaststroke
Jack Kaynes 2nd 50m Breaststroke
3rd 50m Butterfly
Sam Wright 3rd 50m Backstroke
3rd 200m IM
3rd 100 Freestyle
Liam Donaldson 3rd 50m Backstroke
3rd 50m Breaststroke
3rd 50m Butterfly
3rd 100m Freestyle
Lachlan Cruikshank 1st 50m Breaststroke
2nd 50m Butterfly
Jess Digby 2nd 50m Freestyle
1st 50m Breaststroke
2nd 50m Butterfly
16 Years Girl Champion
Olivia Fenwicke 2nd 50m Freestyle
1st 50m Backstroke
2nd 50m Breaststroke
2nd 50m Butterfly
2nd 200 IM
2nd 100m Freestyle
Runner up 17yrs Champion

Hitting the Pool

Relaxing in the stands

The Team
There are now less than two weeks to go before the cast of Bye Bye Birdie stands under the lights in front of their first audience and the Hoskins Centre is in a constant buzz of preparation. Costumes are receiving the finishing touches, lights are being plotted, paint is being hurriedly applied and actors are focused on refining their dances, songs and lines. The crew for sound, lighting and stage have joined the production and it is excellent to see this side of the show being so student-driven. We were also fortunate to have some of our wonderfully talented band come in for an extra rehearsal with the cast on Tuesday night and now everyone can see all the elements coming together.

2015 Trinity Drama certificates for Middle School and Senior School students were presented at assembly this week. There were some fantastic results in the examinations held in late November and it is again clear how talented a student body we enjoy. It is still possible for all students to enrol in this year’s Trinity program and any interested students should contact Sarah Broadbent or visit her office in the Music Block.

Mrs Cleaver’s Junior School Drama Club has now had a few meetings and if this opportunity is of interest more information is available at the Junior School reception.

Lastly, it was great to watch recent TAS Old Boy Hamish McPhie performing in Les Liaisons Dangereuses as part of ADMS’ series of staged play readings. As opportunities for students to be involved in different performing arts opportunities arise the information will be distributed in both TAS Talks and advertised in the Hoskins Centre and I encourage everyone to keep an eye open for interesting upcoming events.

Mr Andrew O’Connell

Creative Arts Coordinator
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
NECOM Year 9 & 10 Music Day and the HSC Music Workshop Details

The annual NECOM Music Workshops for Music students in the New England region, are coming up next week. These workshops are invaluable for students studying music and NECOM has the support of number of renowned musicians, conductors and educators to present sessions. The Year 9/10 Music day features special guest - educator and choral conductor, Paul Jarman and will include performance and ethnomusicology sessions.

Sessions for the two-day HSC workshops on musicology, composition and performance skills will be presented by Paul Jarman, Jane Cateris, Jeff Willey and Helene Galetti.

Plans for next week
Year 9 & 10 Music Day

Date: Wednesday 9 March
Transport: TAS Minibus will depart TAS for the OTC at 8.45am and return students to TAS at 3.30pm
Lunch: Day students are to take their own lunch. Boarders will take a packed lunch from TAS.
Clothing: Students are permitted to wear casual clothing with closed in shoes.

HSC Music Workshops

Date: Thursday 10 and Friday 11 March
Transport: TAS Minibus will depart TAS for the OTC at 8.30am and return students to TAS at 3.30pm
Lunch: Day students are to take their own lunch. Boarders will take a packed lunch from TAS.
Clothing: Students are permitted to wear casual clothing with closed in shoes.

Instrumental ‘Demos' for Junior School Students

This term, a number of our wonderful instrumental teachers will be doing short presentations on their instruments, during Junior School assembly. Each tutor will talk about their instrument and give a short performance during the Wednesday JS assembly in the Hoskins Theatre. They will be doing presentations on a range of instruments: strings, drum kit and snare drum, bagpipes, piano, woodwind and brass.

Many thanks to NECOM Teacher and Cellist Robert Jackson for his presentation at assembly last Wednesday. We also send our appreciation to the TAS Senior String Quartet - Imogen Gifford, Dominique Holley, Disa Smart, and Ziggy Harris who played a short piece for students, conducted by Robert Jackson.

If your child would like to learn an instrument at TAS, please don’t hesitate to contact the Music Department Team for more information. Why not arrange a trial lesson for your child to ‘try before you buy’? Our tutors are happy to offer a free lesson to students in order to try the instrument and decide if they would like lessons.

Individual lessons are available with all of our instrumental and vocal teachers but we also offer group lessons on some instruments.

Yours in Music

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mrs Baumgartner, Mr Dunham and Mrs Broadbent
Activities Day 1

Friday was a ‘first’ in terms of Activities Days for many Middle School students. I spent part of the morning in the grounds with all our students and the staff attached to activities. They were happily employed in ropes exercises, knot tying, first aid and the wall climb in the gym. Having spoken to a good number of them, I know they were having an enjoyable time. I spoke to staff as well and they seemed happy with the day, especially with the interaction between students and staff too. While those from Year 6 were gainfully employed here, the Year 7 and 8 Activities consisted of camping out on bivouac and exercises at Kirby Farm respectively. Underlying all activities was the necessity of communication and cooperation with others outside specific friendship groups and this latter ‘activity’ was so interesting to observe. By design, because it requires reliance on others, the occasion necessitated open communication and, despite initial hesitation, all students acquitted themselves admirably. From their laughter I reckon they ‘ended up’ enjoying the company of others who aren’t always part of their regular friendship group. It was also encouraging to listen to new staff members who waxed lyrical about the style of activities: the day allowed them to ‘get to know’ the students on a basis that otherwise formal class room interaction doesn’t often allow.

As important (sometimes I think it’s more important) the day enabled Middle School students to begin to get to know staff as people. I’m glad the day was a success because the students will now be looking forward to the next Activities Day on 1st April.

Student Leaders

Middle School Monitors for 2016 are:

Head Day Monitor – Cotter Litchfield
Head Boarding Monitor – Will Benham
Monitors – Jaden Carroll, Colby Hanes, Sam Jones, Jack Nivison, Matthew Wark and Sam Behrend

Congratulations to those elected by their peers, they have chosen with great wisdom.

While some boys will be disappointed, the opportunity for new monitors in Semester 2 is an important one. Last year it was very encouraging to see the ‘growth mindset’ of those who missed out. They worked hard upholding the values and standards of the Middle School and were rewarded for their efforts.

I know that the tyranny of distance can be a daunting issue, but I do think it’s important that you attend if you can. As I’ve indicated to parents at the end of Week 2, you know your children far better than we are able to and as such you can assist us to help them in that you can possibly shed light on situations that teachers, after this time, characterize. In addition to getting to know your children teachers better it’s also a really good idea that you have the opportunity to speak about each as an individual. One of the wonderful aspects of Middle School life it’s size and our consequent ability to deal with individual academic difference with reasonable ease.

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School
Activities Day No 2

I am very happy to see the number of fantastic results our students have received from their entries into this year’s Armidale Show. All students had the opportunity to work on Class and House projects last Friday, our second Activities Day. This included some new projects like photography and allowed for greater choice and certainly a higher standard of entry for the Show. Receiving the praise and thanks from the Show Society organisers was satisfying but being in a position to contribute to this important community event is, I believe, even more important. It was wonderful to see the broad range and quality of support the pavilion entries received and I know our students had fun and benefitted from the opportunity to contribute.

You will see a growing list of achievements later in this edition of TAS Talks. Another Service activity was held on Friday afternoon, as we took our classes off campus for the first time in a number of years to Clean Up Australia, or at least a small part of it. It was hot and I was impressed with the way all our students stuck to the job. A significant amount of garbage was collected and this enabled us to discuss the concepts of recycling, taking responsibility for our actions and simply put, leaving a location in better condition than we found it. You would hope that this message was one our children would already understand?

Achievements and success in Junior School

I would like to congratulate all our prize-winners from this year’s Armidale Show, but especially Blake Whitehill who was awarded “Most Successful Exhibitor in the Junior Section of the Fruit and Vegetables. What a great testament to his persistence in preparing his entries. We will also be able to congratulate our many swimmers who have travelled to Lismore to compete in the NCIS Swimming Championships. We wish them well. I also congratulate our Year 5 team that is heading off to the Kids Lit Quiz at NEGS this Friday. The team, Charlie Repin, Lachlan Hunt, Jasper Russ and Conal Nicoll will represent us as students who love reading and who will combine to answer questions based on reading. Good luck team.
Scientists in Schools

Thanks to our Extension & Enrichment program and Mrs Hine, we are very pleased to announce that we are now affiliated with the SiS program, an initiative of the Federal Government, which brings the real world of Science and Maths to students and their teachers. Not only that, it inspires and motivates students towards a love of science and provides teachers with the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of current scientific practice and mathematical applications. Mrs Hine has been in touch with our own Scientist, Dr Gal Winter, a lecturer in the Department of Biomedical Science at UNE, with a strong background in biology, biochemistry and microbiology who has been allocated to TAS Junior School. We will keep you posted as this exciting venture unfolds. Further information can be found at the following site: http://www.scientistsinschools.edu.au

Autumn Festival – Saturday 19 March

Junior School will be participating en masse in this year’s Autumn Festival, along with representatives from many areas across the Middle and Senior School. With the theme focussing on “Our Sporting Legends”, we are asking all students to come along and join the school and enjoy the fun of the parade. Details are yet to be released, but as in previous years we assume we will meet in Beardy St (opposite TAFE) at 12.15 pm. Please pencil this into your calendars now and further details re uniform etc. will be sent home soon.

Minimbah Primary School

Each year, we join with Senior and Middle School students from TAS in a program that develops mutual understanding and cooperation between Minimbah and ourselves, allowing our students to experience opportunities for increased understanding and sharing of cultures. We have a great tradition of combining with Minimbah students for athletics and we are looking for other ways of undertaking joint ventures, combining for community service and creative arts performances. Further information will be given as the program for the year develops, and any input from our own community is welcome.

Founders Day – March 3

Founders Day is an occasion to celebrate the School’s birthday. This year, our first as a fully co-educational School, we will be taking a whole-school photo in the Lawrance Memorial Quadrangle. Please ensure students are in their full summer uniform for this photo and therefore, no children should come to school in sports clothing.

Looking Ahead

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Uniform

The Junior School is strengthening its position on the correct wearing of the School uniform. We would like the support from families as we endeavour to change some poor practice that is creeping in. When leaving your care, please ensure that school shirts are tucked in, socks are pulled up and ties worn correctly. The JS sport uniform entails the TAS navy shorts (only), white (blue-collared) shirt and white socks. Year 4 are able to wear their sport uniform to school on Thursday of Week B as they have a double PE session in the first two periods, however all students should be changed out of PE at the conclusion of the lesson.

Student Absences

Please contact the Junior School by 9am to advise of student illness or appointments.

If your child will be absent on a family holiday or taking time off school other than illness, an Application for Exemption Form needs to be completed. This is a BOSTES requirement and enables us to keep an accurate record of our students’ attendances.
ICAS Competitions

The date for ordering these competitions is approaching and so I refer you to the letter sent previously requesting that you contact us if you do not want your child to participate because there is no doubt that this is not a beneficial experience for some. The value of this competition lies not in the content being covered or the comparison of performance, as the cohort varies so much. While there is some diagnostic value from which we draw, it is a good experience of exam like conditions and recognises those who do perform well in the wider community.

Armidale Show Results

TAS students have had some wonderful results at the Armidale Show, children who entered should feel very proud of themselves. This year in particular:

Pre-School & Under Drawing
First - Joshua Bourke
Second - Andrian Zhang
Third - Staten Dowse
Highly Commended - Chase Pritchard
Highly Commended - George Drain

Pre-School & Under Painting Section 11 Class 15
Champion Most Outstanding Exhibit - Bonnie Blanch
First - Bonnie Blanch
Second - George Drain
Third - Mila Nexo
Highly Commended - Joshua Bourke
Highly Commended - Lalya Abu Asab

Colouring-in Competition
First - Layla Abu Asab
Second - Mila Nexo
Third - Bonnie Blanch

Section 11 Class 8 Bookmarks
1st-Lachlan Costello
2nd Daniel Morgan
3rd-Lachlan Hunt
Highly Commended - Lachlan Thomas

Section 13 Class 23, Charcoal Sketch
Highly Commended - Alec Campbell

Section 11 Class 22, Lego construction 10 yrs and under
Second - Toby Ford

Burdge Khalifa
Highly Commended - William Gilpin

Section 11 Class 7 Origami
First - Jasper O’Neil

Section 11 Class 17 Pottery 8-9Yrs old
First - Thomas Dundon

Section 11 Class 12, Colouring in Comp
First - Calin Simmonds

TAS Whole Junior School item

Section 11 Class 35, Collection Theme Olympics
Third - Kindergarten

TAS Whole Junior School item

Section 11 Class 34, Collection of work
Second - Year 5

Section 13 Class 23, 9-11 yr Drawing
Highly Commended - Harry Penington

Multiple Prize Winners

Peter Evans
Third - Under 12 Whipcracking
Second - Section 11, Class 16 Pottery 10-12 Years “Candlestick”
Second - Section 11, Class 22, Lego Construction 10 Years and Younger "Let the battle begin"
Third - Section 11, Class 22, Lego Construction 10 Years and Younger "Water Plane"

Mitchell Evans
Third - Section 11, Class 27 Lego Model Construction
Highly Commended, - Section 11, Class 17 Pottery 8-9 Yrs “Fox Head”

Archie Burraston
Second - Section 4, Class 49 Six Apples AV
First - Section 4 Class 56, 250g Berries AV
First - Section 4 Class 6 Heaviest Pumpkin (with a little help from his Grandfather)

Blake Whitehill
Most successful exhibitor for 2016 in the Junior Fruit and Vegetables
Champion -Section 11 Class 11, Children's work 8yrs and Under
First - Section 11 Class 11, Item made from Paddle Popsticks
First - Section 4 Class 65, One table pumpkin AV
Second - Section Class 2, Gift for Mum/Dad/Grandparent
Second - Section 4 Class 76, Fruit and Vegetable animal or person
Second - Section 4 Class 73 Collection of 6 Vegetables
Second - Section 4 Class 72 250g Cherry tomatoes
Third - Section 11 Class 1 Any construction made with hard material
Third - Section 4 Class 7, Potato character or object.
Chess Club

The inter school Swiss Chess Tournament, held at Farrer Agricultural Memorial School, is on March 17. Our teams are busy preparing for this “buzzer-style” match, by playing a plethora of games at Chess Club and at home! Watch this space for the results.

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.

Come along and join in the fun!

Mrs Anne Hine
PYP Update

This term the reports featured in TAS Talks have focussed on the five essential elements of the Primary Years Programme: attitudes, skills, knowledge, concepts and action.

This week the essential element concepts will be explored.

The concepts are eight ideas that have relevance within the subject areas but also transcend them. They need to be explored by our students in order to reach an in-depth understanding.

When teachers plan collaboratively, time is spent establishing the Central Idea and Lines of Inquiry. Much of the learning in the PYP is completed through the development of concepts. Each Line of Inquiry has a specific concept assigned to it to help students unlock the meaning and to gain a greater understanding of the Central Idea. These concepts have been sequenced across all Junior School classes.

The questions associated with each concept require analytical thinking and facilitate deep inquiry.

Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator
Gymnastics

We had a full contingent of gymnasts at Monday’s session to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon. The session began with a warm up game of frogs and lily pads and the very important stretches. This was followed by a group activity of springing and landing, including jumping on the huge trampoline as well as the mini tramp, and a challenge of walking across the rock wall. Mr O helped us today and he was impressed with everyone’s strength as they performed handstands and acrobatic supports. Also impressive today was the balance displayed on the beams. The final group circuit included glide and ring swings. To conclude the afternoon’s session everyone participated in a cool down showing different and quite tricky body balances.

Mrs Anne Trenerry

TAS Thunder

TAS Thunder, made up of a mighty amalgam of Year 4 and 5 students, hit the boards at The Den once again on Monday. Enthusiastic about our new training and game schedule, the team were ready and raring to learn some great new skills with Armidale coach Mr Richard Stayner. After just under an hour of coaching, both of the TAS teams lined up to play each other. It was a great start from the Thunder, and the passing and dribbling was noticeably better than past weeks. It took about 8 minutes of solid defence to pass before we finally broke through with a basket from Blair Eichorn. The scoring continued as our team hit their straps and worked so well to back each other up. Whilst Flynn Broadfoot and Henry Kirton also scored, it was the sensational determination of players like Thomas Dundon and Lincoln Connock that was truly noticeable. With an 8-2 lead into half time, the Thunder had their brakes put on a little with injury and some Townie subs that were skilful in attack. Well done to Miss Wood’s TAS Trouble as they were able to scramble a miracle win 12-10 at the conclusion of the game. Please remember, there will be no Wednesday training from now on due to the new Monday schedule.

Mr Alex Portell