

TAS TALKS #8

Weekly Newsletter of The Armidale School



Term 4, Week 8 – Monday 3 December 2007

House on Duty is Croft- ah 6776 5843

Headmaster – *Murray Guest*

Order of Australia Award Ceremony

After receiving his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award two weeks ago, Matthew Coulton (Year 12) was back at Government House just a few days later to receive a Certificate of Commendation from the Order of Australia for service to the community. Whilst I know that young men such as Matthew do not seek recognition for their work (in fact he knew nothing about the award until his invitation to Government House arrived), I find it very heartening that the generosity of spirit and effort from young people is rewarded in this way.

Matthew was one of just 21 award recipients from across NSW and I was very proud to hear his citation include such activities as work with the homeless in Sydney, the Pilgrimage of Hope and his Christian leadership.

Junior School Speech Day and Farewell to Year 5

Friday of Week 6 saw our Junior School celebrate the achievements of their year and I offer congratulations to all concerned; children, staff and parents, for their efforts through a very successful year.

It was also the time when our Year 5 students said farewell to the Junior School and prepared themselves for the move to Middle School. Hearing from the boys as they reflected on their time in Junior School and looked ahead it was clear to me that they are very much ready for the new structure and challenges that Year 6 will present. At the same time I was impressed by how much they had grown as a group through their experiences as senior students and leaders this year. Such opportunities for Year 5 boys may be a rare thing in the Australian school structure, but experience in our Junior School shows that they are very much up to the challenge.

Middle School Challenge Day

Friday of Week 6 was also the first 'Challenge Day' for our Middle School and it was a wonderful success. The central theme of the day was to experience global issues, particularly those affecting the poorest nations in our world. This included carting water to purify by boiling, grinding flour from freshly harvested wheat, making grass products to sell with the assistance of 'micro-loans' and holding a mock United Nations.

The experiences of both the challenges and future strategies for poverty were very cleverly constructed and the engagement of all the groups I saw was very encouraging. My congratulations to the Middle School team.

Activities Week

I write this week after enjoying time away with the Activities program. It is a privilege of mine to be able to see a good number of our groups spread around the countryside through this Activities Week and this highlights to me the variety of challenges presented as students move through their years at TAS. From the Junior School activities which grow in challenge from the Kindergarten sleep-over to Year 5's week away at the coast to the Mosman return exchange for Year 6, cadets, pioneers, rural fire service and surf life-saving, the program is enough to make any adult remembering their time at school green with envy.

The program overall says much about the TAS approach to school life. The challenges, independence and responsibility are designed to grow through the years and students are able to find pathways that allow them to follow their interests and their strengths as they get older. I offer congratulations to all those students who have gained new skills, grown in confidence and taken on new responsibilities for others through the week.

The week, of course, cannot happen without the willingness of our staff to spend time away from home en masse and to join with our students in their challenges. I remain most grateful to the many who back their belief in our Activities with such enthusiastic involvement.

End of Year Activities

The wonderful Christmas Carol Service last night marked the start of our end of year activities. I offer our congratulations to the TAS Chapel Choir and PLC and NEGS Choirs for their impressive display. Joining our schools together for the great tradition of our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a recent initiative and one that has been a great success. I offer thanks to the other schools for their support.

I now look forward to seeing many from the TAS Family at the remaining major events of our final week; Junior School Carols, our major school production of the year – The Taming of the Shrew – and, of course, Speech Day.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our school community a safe and prosperous Christmas and New Year.

Weekly Calendar

Tuesday 4 November

7.00–9.30pm 'The Taming of the Shrew'
in the Memorial Hall

Wednesday 5 November

9.00–12.00am JS Pool Party
MS Assembly and Lunch

7.00–9.30pm 'The Taming of the Shrew'
in the Memorial Hall

Thursday 6 November

9.30am Speech Day in Sports Centre

End of Term– have a fantastic Christmas

This Week on the Web

Photos from the whitewater canoeing training weekend:
http://www.as.edu.au/current_happenings/activities/sport/current_sport.php

Surfing action:

http://www.as.edu.au/current_happenings/activities/lifesaving/current_lifesaving.php

Year 2 Laptop session: http://www.as.edu.au/current_happenings/junior/year_2.php

Year 7 and 8 Drug day

http://www.as.edu.au/current_happenings/senior/pdhpe/current_pdhpe.php

Chaplain – *Richard Newton*

John 6:35–40 – Transformers

My son Hamish has become obsessed with transformers – after all there is more to them than meets the eye. This obsession has been fuelled by a leaflet being left in our letterbox with of course a page devoted to transformers. Hamish has written Santa a letter pleading with him for transformers, and specifying his declining order of priority starting with 'Optimus Prime' – naturally!

Well Santa may or may not come through for him – I fear Santa may have already shopped for Hamish this year. However, Christmas will not be a disappointment for Hamish, or any of us, because while Santa comes so that we might have toys, Jesus says "I have come so that you might have life".

The amazing thing about Jesus' birth is that he was prepared to give up his glory at The Father's side, to be born humbly in a cattle shed, in a Middle Eastern backwater. This is indeed an outstanding transformation. But the more remarkable thing is that he did not come for a birth that would be celebrated for centuries, but rather he came to give his life, to die in our place. He did this so that we might be transformed. Transformed from our rebellion and self styled independent living with our backs turned to God, to being made one of His children with the promised inheritance of eternal life. This is indeed a transformation worth obsessing over this Christmas.

Counsellor's Corner

It's easy to take a lot of things for granted and as a result to live without gratitude in everyday life. When we see things only through the eyes of our own self-interest we can even become angry when life does not shape itself to our demands. We have a sense of entitlement – life owes us happiness, health, success, status, wealth and so on. When things don't work out the way we demand we can become very hard to live with, have a chip on our shoulder, and feel bitter and resentful towards others. Our hands are clutching hands, holding onto what we have and reaching out to claim more.

An experiment that can open up our awareness of this mind-set is simply to try living with gratitude for a day. Staying in the here-and-now as much as possible, noticing and attending to what we are doing in the moment, practising gratitude for what is, for a whole day. At least once per hour take a few minutes to reflect on what you have been doing and try being grateful for all that it is. It is even possible that the uncomfortable or painful can become a source of gratitude (sometimes long after the event) when you accept it as part of what it means to be human in a very ambiguous world. Life can be very hard at times and perhaps we make it more so when we fail to notice the goodness of things in the present moment – a smile, an act of generosity, the sound or sight of a bird nearby, a roadside flower, the colours of the evening sky, a drink with a friend. Attending to these things you might notice some joy creeping in without having to do anything. Try it and 'see'. I'll be trying too.

Best wishes for Christmas, Rob.

P&F Association

The P&F will again be serving complimentary champagne and Christmas cake prior to the play on Wednesday evening 6 December around 6.45pm. Hope to see you there!!!

We will also be selling raffle tickets in our Christmas Raffle: a fabulous Christmas Hamper with all the goodies you'll need, as well as a case of champagne! Also for sale will be the famous TAS puds, so if you haven't bought yours yet, make sure to get one, as they are truly terrific!

Cheers, Dotty and Janine

General Notices

Year 8 Get –Together

This is a preliminary notice to the parents of boys in Year 8, 2008 (current Year 7) that there is a 'gathering' of all parents scheduled for Saturday 16 February. This will be an opportunity for new and old parents to get together.

Please mark the date in your diary.

For further information please contact Dee Lawson on 6772 9090.



FOR A GREAT EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT DON'T MISS



BOOKINGS
6776 5800
OR
TICKETS
AT THE
DOOR



William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*



TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER AND
WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER
7.00PM



Fundraisers for Jess

AHS student, 17 year old Jess Stocker was seriously injured in a car accident six weeks ago.

After five weeks in ICU in Tamworth she is now in a specialist unit in Sydney.

Two fundraisers have been organised to assist the family at this difficult time, your support would be appreciated:

Decade Concert

Armidale Club, 8 December from 8pm

Tickets at door: Adult \$12, Conc \$8,
School \$5, Family \$30

Concert for Jess

Vocal Chords Choir/EphenStephen Guitar duo:

Ursuline Chapel, 16 December, 6-7pm

Tickets at NECOM or at the door: \$10 each

For further details contact

Frances Tafra on 67712716 or email ftafra@as.edu.au

HSIE History Teachers' Association of NSW Competition – 2007

Year 9 and 10 History students were entered into the 2007 competition.

The competition's questions focused on Australian history, and is therefore of great help to Year 10 students in preparation for their School Certificate exam.

Toby Brunckhorst received a High Distinction for the test with a mark of 45 out of 50. This was an excellent result considering that the highest mark in the state was 48 out of 50.

Distinctions were awarded to the following boys:

Year 10 – Andrew Bell, Edward Fenwicke, Ethan Fry, Edward Hoddle, Giles Holmes and Andrew Liston

Year 9 – Nathan Eager, Will Smidt, Jack Vidler and Michael Vince-Moin.

The boys mentioned above who are in Year 9 should be particularly pleased with their result considering that many of the questions pertained to areas they have yet to study in Year 10. I look forward to some even better results from them in next year's competition.

David Toakley, HSIE Coordinator

Community Service

Congratulations to Harley Scholz on this initiative

Teenage Disabilities are a serious problem. Many people think that it will never happen to the. Although the chance that something like being paralysed and needing to spend your life in a wheelchair are slim, it is still an issue that we need to help. On Monday I decided to do what I could to create an awareness and to test what knowledge my school and friends had about disabilities. I was to spend my school day in a wheelchair (or if not in my chair) without the use of my legs. This I found to be a much harder task, both physically and mentally than I could have first contemplated. While this might not have been as serious as the real life situation it certainly changed my outlook on disabilities has greatly changed. Looking back on my day I believe it was a positive experience for both the school community and myself. After commando crawling up two flights of stairs to reach my history class, one flight of stairs to my maths class, needing help to get up the access ramp for science, and being helped up many stairs to enter classrooms I noticed how disabled I could be.

I was still able to participate in my PE classes, playing volleyball and outdoor soccer badly while being confined by my wheelchair. Doing my work in class ... after the long struggle up the stairs ... and raising awareness to the life changing events that can happen to ANYONE at ANYTIME.

*Anything can start with one small idea,
but something will happen only when
you take the first step.*

Harley Scholz

Musical Notes – Ian Slater

On Sunday evening the Chapel choir joined by choirs from PLC and NEGS took part in the annual Nine Lessons and Carols service in the Memorial Hall. The Chapel Choir has many new members and some of them had worked hard and sang solos. The soloists were; Patrick Williamson, Ryan Slater, Madison Taylor, Jesse Stevenson, Angus Trenerry, Hannah Grigg, Eliza Scott, Nigel Bell and Jessica Wright. I had many favourable comments from staff, parents and students on the choir's performance.

Tonight the Junior Stage Band, Guitar group and Orchestra will be playing in the Carols by Candlelight (weather permitting)

On Tuesday the TAS Singers will be assisting at the NEGS and PLC Christmas services.

On Wednesday the Junior Stage Band and Middle School Trio will be playing at the Middle School Speech day and on Thursday the Big Band will be in action at the Senior School Speech Day.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Music Department to publicly thank Mr Hughes for his professionalism, friendship and humour and wish him and his family success and adventure in his new position at the Australian International School in Singapore.

And finally one for Mr. Hughes as he plays trombone.

A trombone player arrived a few minutes late for the first rehearsal of the local choral society's annual performance of Handel's Messiah. He picked up his instrument and bowed, and turned his attention to the conductor. The conductor asked, "Would you like a moment to tune?" The trombone player replied with some surprise, "Why? Isn't it the same as last year?"

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sporting News

CIS Under 15's Tennis team

Congratulations to Brock Sherriff on his selection in the NSW CIS under 15's tennis team. Brock travelled to St. Ignatius (Riverview) on 11 November and competed with 36 other boys representing all the Independent Sports Associations in NSW.

Brock represented the NCSA. He made it to the quarter-finals of the trial where he was defeated in a close fought tussle but this was enough to gain him selection in the team. Well done Brock. Mark Taylor, MIC Tennis

Motor Bike Enduro Racing

In the final results for the 2007 series of the Northern Inland Sprint Series Motor Bike Enduro Racing, Giles Holmes, Year 10, was placed 2nd overall in the Open/Senior 'C Grade' competition. He was coming 1st before the final round but was not able to compete in the final round due to a prior commitment.

Central North Rugby in 2008

Central North zone will select junior representative teams for 2008 during term 1. The age groups will be 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s, 17s and 18s. TAS boys are welcome to try-out for selection in these teams. It's great that the Central North zone gives TAS junior players the opportunity to play rugby at a representative level.

Many TAS parents are unaware of what's involved in representing Central North, so the purpose of this article is to provide you with information on this topic.

Involvement by TAS

It's important for you to realise that boys will be representing Central North, not TAS. TAS will assist with arrangements where possible but generally it parents will need to take responsibility themselves for their son's Central North rugby activities, particularly with transport and supervision.

What's happening in 2008?

Training

Sunday 3 February, 10:00am to 2:00pm at Gunnedah:
Training for 12s to 18s

Sunday 17 February, 10:00am to 2:00pm at Barraba:
Training for 12s to 18s

Sunday 2 March, 10:00am to 2:00pm at Gunnedah:
Training for 12s to 18s

Sunday 20 April, 10:00am to 2:00pm at Gunnedah:
Training for 12s to 18s

Trial Games (to be confirmed)

Sunday 30 March and Sunday 13 April

Country Championships

U14s & 15s 26 & 27 April

Venue: Lismore

U16s & U17s 3 & 4 May

Venue: Central Coast

State Championships

U12s, U13s, U14s 7, 8 & 9 June

Venue: Sydney

The Central North Executive will normally organise transport, accommodation and meals for these weekends. A chartered coach normally leaves Tamworth at 9:30am on the Friday morning prior to the Championships.

Some things to consider for boys selected in the 16s: TAS Year 10 leaves for Canberra (Excursion Week) early on the morning of Monday 5 May so parents would need to ensure their son was back in Armidale, from Lismore, on the night of Sunday 4 May.

Registering players

If your son is selected to play in a Central North team at one of the Country Championships, he must be a registered player with the ARU. To do this you will need to organise for him to join a junior club. Normally your closest local club is the best one to join because he can play for them during school holidays if he wishes. Armidale has a Junior Club and most boys who played for TAS in the Tritech Security Rugby Cup (for Armidale Secondary Schools) in term 3, 2008, were registered with Armidale Rugby Club.

Need more information?

Contact Kerry Cassells, email Kerry.Cassells@justicehealth.nsw.gov.au

TAS Tornados Cricket

On Saturday the TAS Tornados took on Uralla in what would be a one dayer after last week's game was called off. Uralla won the toss and we were sent in to bat on a slippery pitch. We got off to a shaky start after two wickets fell in the first three balls Harry Guest managed to score a well earned 50 followed by Alex Laurie smashing a quick 50 including a six that was hit onto the road. At the end of the innings we were 152 off 21 overs.

Uralla started strongly and one of their batsmen made 50 runs including six 6's. Lorne Gurney bowled well taking two consecutive wickets but Uralla put on a fight and another of their batsmen scored 50. They ended up needing twenty runs off four overs. Dugie Hill stepped up and took two wickets in one over and Uralla ended up seven runs short of our total.

An exciting game won through TAS boys' grit and determination. Thanks must go to Mr Lloyd, Mr Taylor and Mr Trenerry for umpiring.

Ben Brunckhorst

More Congratulations

Michael Vince-Moin has been selected to play in the Under 15 State Youth League Football (soccer) for 2008.

Activities Report



Surf Lifesaving Annual Camp

Sawtell Beach 2007

The annual camp, held at Sawtell Beach again this year, was a big step up in commitment and expectations. The Sawtell Club committee has taken steps to commit more funds and resources to the program and we are indebted to them.

This allowed all the trainees opportunities to access a greater number of experiences and take on additional responsibilities.

From Monday to Thursday, morning and afternoon sessions were spent under the guidance of up to six Sawtell club men and women. Activities included arduous run-swim-runs, board rescues, tube rescues, various carries including using spinal boards, using radios and signals to communicate, manning the IRB and jet ski for

rescues purposes and general beach duties.

On Wednesday, the boys were involved all day, continuously completing rescue scenarios whilst patrolling the beach with the regular life guards. Their duties for the day included speaking to the public who were swimming outside the flagged area, to delivering a lesson to another school group of juniors from Bundara. Thursday evening saw the theory and resuscitation components assessed and Friday morning all the boys completed their practical assessment in the surf.

The week was a mixture of hard work, training, study, learning of new skills and realising new-found confidence. The boys were impressive. Our plans include returning next year throughout the year to assist the Sawtell volunteers on patrol and take part in some of the local carnivals. We thank the Club for its outstanding commitment to the students and the school.

Ian Lloyd, Acting MiC Surf Life



Middle School

From the Head of Middle School

2007 has proven to be a highly rewarding and successful year in the life of our Middle School. It has been pleasing to observe our students' rising maturity and their willingness to embrace all that TAS has to offer.

We have been delighted with the increase of Middle School enrolments this year and in particular the substantial increase of students in Year 6. I would like to thank all of the Middle School team for their commitment in supporting our students' academic and emotional well-being.

At the conclusion of this year we bid farewell to Mrs Seonia Wark, a foundation member of our Middle School. We congratulate her on her well-deserved appointment as Head of Mathematics and we look forward to her continuing contribution to the success of our Middle School.

In 2008 we will be welcoming a new member to our Middle School team. We are delighted that Mr Peter Voysey has accepted the position of Year 6 homeroom teacher and I am confident that he and Mrs McCarthy will make an outstanding team.

Our first social event of the 2008 new school year will be a welcoming family BBQ which to be held on the 14 February. We look forward to enjoying an evening of socialising with new and returning families. This year we will be conducting our Middle School Information session prior to the barbecue in order to lessen the amount of driving required for boarding parents. Details of these two events will be published at the beginning of Term 1.

On behalf of the Middle School team we wish you all a joyous Christmas, happy and peaceful New Year and a wonderful family holiday.

Activities Week

Our Middle School students participated in a week of outdoor adventure and challenge. Our thanks to the teachers who organised and supervised this very worthwhile component of our Middle School program.

Final Assembly Reminder

Our final assembly for the year will begin at 1:45pm on Wednesday, 5 December. A family luncheon will be held at McConville Centre prior to the assembly beginning at 1.00pm. Please note the boys are not required to wear their formal uniform for this assembly. Please be reminded that all boys are required to attend Speech Day on Thursday.

Year 8 Farewell Breakfast

Year 8 students and parents are invited to celebrate their years in Middle School by joining together for a buffet breakfast on Thursday, 6 December, 2007. The breakfast will be held between 7.30am - 8.30am (students will need to leave at 8.30am to prepare for speech day). An invitation has been sent home detailing this event. Our thanks to the Year 8 Liaison parents, Vanessa, Lexie, Paul and Sandy for organising and preparing this wonderful way to celebrate the boys years in Middle School.

Speech Day

We look forward to your attendance at Thursday's Middle/Senior School Speech Day commencing at 9.30am in the Gymnasium. All parents and visitors are to be seated by 9.20am. All students are to assemble in their house areas for roll call and uniform check is at 8.30am. All students must be in formal uniform. A morning tea will follow Speech Day.

Beginning of 2008

A reminder that boarders are to return to White House between 2.00pm and 4:30pm on Tuesday, 29 January and that all students will begin classes on Wednesday, 30 January. All students are to meet in front of the Sports Centre at 8.45am, with all of their stationery requirements prepared to begin classes. Uniform for the first day back is formal.

Challenge Day

Last week, on Friday 23 November all students in Middle School took part in our first Challenge Day. And what a day it was! The day was based around the idea that we are all citizens of the world and challenged the students to propose a way that we in the Middle School can all work together to make the world a better place. Some of the highlights and what we discovered are outlined below. Our guest speaker from Botswana Mr Obokeng Raikane – taught us to say “Pula” – “the blessings of rain to you”, what a great word to learn from Setwana. Well on the day we did have the blessings of rain! It rained in bucket loads after the event!! Ke itumtese – thank you.

We shared a very special Morning Tea where the students were able to experience what it may mean to be the 80% of the world’s population who invariably miss out on most of the world’s resources. 36 lucky students were able to find themselves in the privileged and developed part of the world where 90 doughnuts were all theirs. What would be their decision? Eat the lot themselves? Eat most of the doughnuts themselves and share a small proportion with the rest of Middle School? Share it equally amongst the rest including the doughnut of their own? The decision unanimously was to share it equally, but who would get the first half doughnut? The rest of the Middle School, were on their knees begging, calling out, in fact screaming for food. A surprisingly accurate replication of what goes on in the real world. Congratulations to Ben Stacy and Kye Hardingham who actually gave away all their doughnuts.

Students were able to take part in many special experiences, which were based around the United Nation’s Millenium Development Goals – looking at hunger, poverty, shelter and water. Did you know that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the poorest 48 nations is less than the wealth of the world’s three richest PEOPLE combined? Did you know that the number of malnourished people is growing at a rate of 5 million per year?

Did you know that the average African family uses 53 litres of water per person per day whereas in Australia we use more than 480 litres per person per day!!! We discovered that there is a lot of time spent in a day just collecting and carrying water. And even then the water may not be fit to drink, so more collecting and carrying in order to find enough firewood to boil the water. When is there time to play or go to school? We discovered it takes a long time to build just one mud brick, let alone a shelter for a family. Did you know it needs straw! We discovered that to grind wheat to make enough bread to feed a family would take a very long time and lots of strength. After 20 minutes 15 of us had ground less than a tablespoon of flour! We learned about organisations which sponsor entrepreneurs by giving them micro business loans, could be a possible area we could explore to support. We also discovered it is hard to weave a product out of banana leaves.

Each of the Middle School students had during the week been allocated a country, which they were required to research. Facts about population, capital city, location, climate were all duly researched in the lead up to the day and placed on each student’s webpage. Along with facts about their country of research all boys had to find out a way to greet another in the language of their country. This was placed onto the webpage as well, in a recorded podcast. On the day all boys painted their own country’s flag.



The highlight of the day was our coming together on backfield. Dr Broughton Boydell had been working with Joe Portas, Chris Clouten and Zac Bridgman to use GPS technology to map out the world. The boys used a ride on lawn mower to outline the continents and some island nations of the world. All the boys together with their flags were asked to find their place in the world. It was great to see just how many countries there were in Europe and Africa. Mr White from his cherry picker vantage point photographed our world. With an “Oh what a feeling!” jump first in Africa, Europe and the Americas and finally in Russia, Asia and the Pacific. It certainly was a great way to view the world!

Thank you to so many people who helped us on the day. To Mrs Barnsley and the boys who went to Vietnam, thank you for the delicious lunch. To Mr Brett Monley, Mr Chet Davies thanks for letting us use Backfield and the cherry picker. Thanks Mr White for braving the cherry picker heights and photographing us. Thanks to all the senior boys who helped in our Round Square style Barazza discussion groups.

Thanks to all the Middle School staff for arranging the extraordinary day.

Junior School

Looking Ahead

Wednesday 5 December

Last day of term for Junior School
Pool Party 9am – 12noon

2008

Monday 28 January	Public Holiday
Tuesday 29 January	Staff Day
Wednesday 30 January	Students return

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday

The Junior School children and staff have enjoyed a year of good friendships, fun activities, great sport and musical opportunities, and some hard work to put the icing on the cake! Our Final Assembly and Speech Day allows us to look back over a year and marvel at all that we have been fortunate to be able to do and to congratulate so many children on their wonderful achievements. The teachers are very proud of the children in their class, and those special individuals that we have seen succeed beyond the classroom. Each and every child can hold their heads high, knowing that they have done the best that they possibly can.

We are hoping to improve the retention rate of our children's reading and spelling skills during this long holiday break, (seven weeks holiday is the equivalent of nearly all of Term 4 – without reading!!) and we encourage parents to support their children by providing them with lots of opportunities to read – either to a parent, or to themselves. Please take advantage of Mrs Lou Allen's generous offer with TAS Library books so that your child has a variety of books to read. The Town Library is also an excellent source of reading material for the children, so if you are not already a member, it would be very worthwhile becoming one.

We wish our families a wonderful holiday – one filled with special family time and lots of relaxation – and loads of opportunities to read!!

We look forward to welcoming you, and new families to the School, on Wednesday 30 January, 2008. It will be great!!

PS Congratulations to Mrs Harvey

We were delighted to hear that Mrs Harvey had a beautiful baby boy last Monday, weighing a healthy 6lbs 12ozs. He is named Hunter Robert and Mrs Harvey, proud father Andrew and baby Hunter are all doing well. Our sincerest congratulations to them all.

Mrs Lou Forsythe, Head of TAS Junior School

Birthday Wishes

We wish a very happy birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthday this month:

Harrison Abeyaskera, Jock Campbell, Angus Alford, Stuart Epworth, Duncan Chalmers, Cameron Norbury, Emma Soto, Sam Doyle, Oliver Fletcher, Lachlan Wood, Anna Jarvis, Jessica Chambers, Toby Niemeyer, Nick Burke.



Assembly Awards

We wish to congratulate the following children who received awards during the last assembly:

Bronze Awards were presented to: Max Cushway and Frazer Moore

Silver Awards were presented to: – Liam Kennedy, Dane Townsend, Emma Soto, Will Claridge, Tim Pears and Greg Guyer.

Very special congratulations to Sinclair Moore, Olivia Fenwicke, Aidan McEnroe, Emma Ranck, Samuel Thatcher, Harry Wright, Will Waterson, Sophia Thatcher, James Gilson, Dan Allen, Charlton Grant, Sophia Bohlsen, Dougal Stacy and Jack Evans who gained their Gold Awards.

Emma Wynne Challenge

As part of Emma's visit to the Junior School as Guest Speaker for Speech Day 2007, Mr Jim Pennington set up a brilliant challenge where all children from Transition to Year 5, keen parents and staff, a challenge team from PLC and some keen Armidale triathletes had the opportunity to compete against Emma in a swim and run leg.

Unfortunately, no one told the Sydney air traffic controllers, and her plane was over an hour late. The youngest competitors had to start without her, but they still enjoyed the opportunity to get wet and have fun.

Despite this, her arrival into the swimming centre, was like a famous actress arriving at the Oscars! As soon as she entered the pool area, an unsolicited chant erupted, and Emma's smile broadened even further. In no time at all she was surrounded by adoring fans – and not all of them young either!

Year 5 children, the PLC contingent and the Armidale triathletes were the lucky ones who lined up to challenge Emma. As the hooter signalled the start, there was feverish thrashing across the pool, and Emma held back a bit to avoid the throng. It took her no time at all to make up this time, and with the enthusiastic support of the entire crowd, managed to finish ahead of all, bar Mr Michael Hoult, well known local triathlete. Emma was then surrounded by autograph hunters and photographers, before being rescued for lunch!

Junior School Playground

Many thanks to Catherine Nielsen for her work with the Junior School staff and her presentations to the TAS Groundsmen and School Council regarding the new playground. The plans for the new playground are in the noticeboard outside the Junior School office. We would be grateful if parents would take the time to have a look at these plans and please forward any suggestions or comments to Mrs Forsythe. Also please encourage your children to put forward their suggestions as we value their input.

Head Lice

Unfortunately we have had two cases of head lice in Year 1 and after the Orientation morning for Transition.

Would parents please check their children's hair and if necessary treat accordingly.

Help your child maintain their reading level by using the Library Holiday Borrowing

At the start of each year, it is apparent through testing results that the children have gone backwards in their reading and spelling skills, having had a seven week break. Whilst it is impossible for teachers to prevent this, one way in which children can help themselves, is to continue to read throughout the holidays. Our School librarian, Mrs Lou Allen will very happily support this as she values the importance of reading, by allowing children to borrow six books during the Christmas holiday period, with their parents permission. If you would like your child to take advantage of this kind offer, please sign the slip at the bottom of this newsletter, and return it to the Junior School Office. Books will be borrowed during the last week of term, and will need to be returned to the Library in the first week of Term 1, 2008, in good condition.

Children who read as few as six books over the summer maintain the level of reading skills they achieved during the preceding school year. Reading more books leads to even greater success. When children are provided with 10 to 20 self selected children's books at the end of the regular school year, as many as 50 percent not only maintain their skills, but actually make reading gains.

Just because school is out, it doesn't mean that reading and learning should stop. Teachers know that many children can't afford to take such a long break. Young readers who don't continue to read over the summer – especially those who are reluctant or at risk – are likely to lose crucial ground. One long summer holiday off can sometimes mean a whole year of struggling academic performance.

If children have opportunities to listen to, discuss and read books on topics that they select, or books about characters that they love, they develop extensive background knowledge that can scaffold their independent reading and sustain their engagement.

Laptop Use in the Playground and Unsupervised in the Classroom

From the beginning of the Laptop 1:1 program, children in the Junior School have not been allowed to use their laptops in the playground, at the car turning circle or at the bus stop – in fact, anywhere in the School where there is not direct staff supervision. All the children are aware of this restriction, and have been mindful to follow these guidelines around the school. We would appreciate parent support should you see a child using a laptop inappropriately.

Laptop Insurance During Holidays

A reminder to all students who may be travelling over the Christmas break that the insurance provided for their laptops is for non-warrantable damage or loss with a \$250 excess for each claim.

The insurance policy does not cover stolen machines if left in plain sight, nor does it cover willful damage.

Additionally, machines are not covered if taken out of the country for periods exceeding 28 days.

Overseas students particularly would be best advised to take out their own insurance whilst overseas or leave their laptops at TAS in the Library.

Mr Martin Levins

End of Year Excursions

Kinder Sleepover

What a brilliant excursion. Kindergarten were very excited and at 3.30pm we began the sleepover with a cheer from enthusiastic children. Even though it was raining, we began games in the Geenroom which included rob the nest (we had to watch some devious parents when it was their turn to play) and Kanga Cricket. Mr Meehan and Mr Emanuel were demonstrating their cricket ability to Kindergarten who were in awe. We had afternoon tea, hoola hoop competitions and began to use the skipping ropes, when we had a visit from the Eagle boy's Eagle who delivered Pizza.

We organised our beds and then went night swimming. What fun we had. Then we began our fantastic movie and then went to sleep. The children were very well behaved. We woke early on Saturday to have a big breakfast in the TAS Dining Hall consisting of bacon and eggs and pancakes. What a feast. I would like to sincerely thank all of the parent helpers, Mr Robertson and Mrs Adams who were invaluable to a successful Kindergarten Sleepover.

Ms Bromwich



Year 1 & 2 Excursion to Bonny Hills Port Macquarie Monday

The trip to Bonny Hills

On Monday at 8:45am we were on our way to Bonny Hills Conference Centre. On the bus it was very noisy. We had recess at Gingers creek. After that everyone went to the toilet. Then we hopped back on the bus. Then we watched *Happy Feet*, when that was over we watched *Charlottes Web*. Before we knew it, we were at Timbertown.

By Jessica, Sophie, Olivia and Jacqueline

Timber town

When we got off the bus we went to an awesome restaurant in Timber town. Our choices were spaghetti bolognaise, chicken nuggets and fish and chips. There was a bush band playing to keep us entertained while we ate our lunch.

We went to the gift shop and bought lollies but we weren't allowed to (we didn't know that) then we went and saw a bullock demonstration.

The man cracked a whip to make the bullock pull a three-tonne log around. Then we saw a Captain Cook movie. We learnt that the Dutch discovered Australia first. We went to the sawmill and saw a talking cockatoo. Then we went on a steam train, then we hopped back on the bus.

By Aidan, Scott, Sebastian and Sean

Bonny Hills–We have Arrived!

First we got our personal things off the bus and had afternoon tea. Then we got our suitcases off the bus. Next we chose our beds and put our suitcases on our beds. Then we changed into our clothes for dinner. Afterward we played a game of cricket. Followed by that we went to dinner. For dinner we had spaghetti bolognese, then it was time for dessert – we had jelly and ice cream. After that we went to our cabins and we played cards, (boys) had a PJ fashion parade (girls). Then we went to sleep.

By Jack, Charnels and Sinclair

Tuesday – Beach Walk

On Tuesday morning we woke up at sunrise and went for a walk at 6:30. We walked down to the beach. The beach was called Rainbow Beach. After we got there we ran down to the waves – it was as cold as an ice block. We were having a lot of fun with the waves. We made sandcastles and had a wonderful time. We all had to wash our feet before heading back for a quick shower and a hot breakfast of pancakes with maple syrup.

By Emma and Claudia

Sea Acres Rainforest

On Tuesday we went to Sea Acres Rainforest. When we got there we walked to the information building to watch a movie on Rainforests– we all learnt many new things about rainforests. It was then time for morning tea – we had a chocolate muffin and a popper. We were then all taken for a guided talk along the boardwalk and we saw a goanna and kookaburra. We saw some weird and fascinating trees. When we had finished the boardwalk we went into the gift shop to buy some things before getting back on the bus.

By Harry, Josh and Samuel

Port Venture River Cruise

On Tuesday at Port Macquarie we went on a river cruise. We got to the dock. We saw a big boat. We got on the boat and waited for 13 minutes and did some worksheets– then we took off! We saw a big sailboat and a Chinese Junk boat. Half way we had afternoon tea. Some of us felt a bit seasick and so went to the back deck. We also spent some time on the front deck. We all lined up and went to the very top deck– it was fantastic. Then the Captain of the ship made an announcement– he reported dolphins under the boat! Mrs Brunson took the first photo of the dolphin. It was then time to turn around and go back. We returned to the dock and had had a great day!

By David, Zingy, James, Jack and Fred

The Trip Back Home

On Wednesday we were getting ready for a big trip to Armidale. We were worried we might forget something. We all packed our bags and put them out near the bus.

Then we had our breakfast– it was eggs and cereal. We then arrived at the Billabong wildlife park. We then got on the bus and watched Flubber. We stopped for lunch at Ginger's Creek and everyone went to the toilet and got on the bus. Then we watched Garfield. Finally we were in Armidale and stopped at TAS and went home.

By Jessica, Olivia, Sophie and Jacqueline

Billabong Wildlife Park

On Wednesday we went to Billabong Wild Life Park. First we talked about the rule, no running. Then we got into our groups and looked at the animals. We saw a wombat and we saw under his burrow. After that we looked at the birds, then we went to feed the wallabies and they tickled our hands. We went to a reptile show and patted a lizard, snake and an alligator. Then we went and got our morning tea and we had poppers and a biscuit. Then we went in the reptile cave to look at reptiles, and we saw snakes, turtles, alligators, frogs and goannas. At last we went to the great shop! Then we went to the spider monkeys where the zoo man told us about them.

Mrs Brunson and Mrs Waters

Years 3 and 4 Excursion to Lake Ainsworth

On Wednesday last week we were going to a camp called Lake Ainsworth. We were going on a huge bus with two televisions and comfy seats. After two hours of traveling we stopped for recess at a picnic area. We spent about 15 minutes having our recess and then we got back on the bus. We were watching "meet the Robinsons". After awhile the movie ended and we watched "Mr Bean's Holiday". We kept on going. Soon we had lunch at a playground area, It was raining when we got back on the bus. Pretty soon we were at Lake Ainsworth.

When we all got out and had our bags, a man called Adam told us all the rules. We then went to the beach to have some fun. After that we all went to our cabins to get our beds ready. At about 5 o'clock we had dinner and it was very nice. The next day the first thing we did was have breakfast which was scrambled eggs on toast. Then we were going snorkling and I saw a baby octopus. Then we went back to the pool for a swim. It was a very nice swim, we got changed and headed down to lunch.

When we finished lunch we walked down to the archery. Our team was called the Robin Hoods and I hit the target only once and hit the black area and got 20 points. We then went over to have our dinner. We had a disco in the Hall and went to bed with a milo and biscuit.

On Friday we were having a final cabin inspection, so we cleaned up – good thing we passed. We had breakfast, then went on our bikes and did some riding. After that we got on the bus and went home.

Lake Ainsworth Camp – by Liam Cooper
Mrs Christine Wright and Mrs Theresa Grills

Year 5 Excursion to Coffs Harbour

Last week Year 5 had a great time on their end of year excursion. Staying at Coffs Coast Conference and Camping Centre, they were involved in many outdoor activities that were challenging either mentally or physically. Students also participated in surfing lessons. This was a highlight for all students and for many it was their first experience in this sport. After the four days the students were ready for a well-earned rest, and perhaps a better sleep than they had experienced over the past few days.

Mr Tim Hadfield

Lost

A digital camera used at the Year 5 dinner at the McConville Centre has gone missing. It has the name of Jack Johnston on the wrist band.

Jack has also lost his blazer it has his name on it.

Stephen Smith from Kinder has lost his navy jumper which has a tag with "Smith" on it. If anyone finds this jumper, please return to the Kinder Classroom.

Found

One very cute green umbrella was left at the Hall on Friday after Speech Day. The owner can claim this umbrella from Mrs Nies at the Junior School office.

Children's Asthma Camp

This is a fun filled 5 day camp from 14-17 January 2008 for children aged 8-12 years and is held each January at the Milson Island Department of Sport and Recreation campsite.

The cost of the 5 day camp is \$270 including food, accommodation, ferry transport to and from the island and all activities. Financial assistance is also available for approved applicants.

For more information either visit www.asthmansw.org.au and follow the Children's Asthma Camp links or call 1800 645 130 for a booking form. Applications close 30 November 2007.

Weemala Pottery

Rick Hatch & Suzanne Forsyth Hatch will be holding their 18th Annual Christmas Exhibition in the East Mall at 119 Beardy Street (opposite Hanna's Arcade) from 26 November to 24 December. The Champagne Grand Opening will be Saturday 1 December from 10.00am to 5.00pm and Sunday 2 December from 11.00am to 5.00pm. For further information phone 6772 5371 or Weemalapot@yahoo.com. All welcome.

Junior Sport

Sport for Remainder of Term

Please let your coach know if you will be away for any weekends, particularly cricket, as some teams have games in the first two weeks of our holidays, because public schools do not start holidays until much later.

Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon JS Sports Co-ordinator

Basketball

Our TAS Yellow and Purple Basketball teams played each other last Wednesday as part of the local social competition. A great game was witnessed by all spectators as both teams fought hard taking the lead from each other several times.

TAS Yellow started the stronger team with great lead up work from Mitchell Green, Jacob David and Umur Gultekin. After leading at half time 9 to 7, TAS Yellow maintained tremendous team work, however, TAS Purple made a come-back with Finn McCarthy, James Gilson, Jacob Faint and Dan Allen all making their mark on the game.

The final score reflected a tremendously close game. TAS Purple went on to win 17-13.

Thank you to both teams for their great sportsmanship during this term. We look forward to the second half of our competition next year.

Mrs Christine Wright and Ms Lana Bromwich

Cricket

Under 10's Cricket Report

After an exciting but exhausting week on camps, the players showed great enthusiasm and determination during our game against CSC on Saturday.

CSC opened the batting to some great fielding by TAS. Wickets were taken from some fine bowling by Jack Parker, Lachlan Tonkin, Alexander Chambers, Ben Collins, Charlton Grant and Sebastian Scott. The batters were caught off guard by the fielding skills of Ross Monie and Jacob Hunt as well as Alexander, Nick Burke and Ben who all took excellent catches. The TAS side managed to take all 9 wickets, before all the overs were bowled, a commendable effort.

We faced a daunting bowling side from CSC with several of our players being bowled quickly without warning. Sam Thatcher and Scott Good made an impressive performance as a pair, each managing to retire after facing 20 balls. Jack Evans showed great resolve while batting solidly until retirement and Charlton Grant was our top scorer of the day. Lachlan and Alexander batted with fortitude and were most unlucky to be bowled as they faced their final balls.

Many thanks again to all the committed parents who helped out with the Saturday matches in so many ways.

Although we will have a reduced side, we look forward to facing Hillgrove this weekend at Rologas, after both a win and a loss against them already this season.

Mrs Theresa Grills

Under 11 Cricket Report

The team was very excited to play our second game of the season, after many wash outs and a bye. Our opposition was the Hillgrove Unicorns, the same team we played in the first game. Lochie Ferrier was Captain and sent the team to field after winning the toss. The boys were active in the field, saving some fours and encouraging each other. Great wicket keeping by Will Claridge and Seb Gibson.

Wickets were taken by Liam Kennedy, Will Claridge, Liam Cooper and two by Will Waterson. The boys went in to bat positive and determined to give their best. It was very impressive to see them running at every opportunity and talking. Improvements with the bat were Lochie Ferrier, Liam Cooper, Will Claridge, and Tim Pears. Best score with the bat was Will Waterson. TAS were all out for 53. Overall the game was very friendly, we thank Hillgrove for allowing us to put our 12th player in and complete the 25 overs. Thanks go to Helen Dennis for scoring and Dugald Williamson for umpiring.

Mrs Tania Ball

Kanga Cricket Report

Kanga players arrived nice and early for our Saturday's skills session. It was wonderful to see all players having a fun game prior to the skills starting- we have some great potential players coming along. The boys are to be commended for remembering hats and drink bottles. The focus skill for this week was on bowling and all boys were reminded of the importance of keeping a straight arm when aiming at the wickets. Kanga will be held next Saturday- I will be unable to attend, however, Mr Ferguson will be there.

Mrs Veronica Waters

\$

Permission to borrow Library books during the summer holiday

I give permission for my child In Year

To borrow six books from the TAS Library during the summer holiday period, and will return these books in good condition, in

the first week of Term 1, 2008.

Should the books not be returned, or are returned damaged, I agree to the purchase cost of the replacement books being charged

to my Child's school account.

Stop Press

Congratulations to Callum Ferguson in Kindergarten

The Department of Water & Energy in Sydney notified us that Callum had won the Kindergarten section of their competition by designing an E-Card (instead of their company posting Christmas Cards they wanted an electronic version). He has won a \$100.00 book voucher for himself and a \$100.00 book voucher for the School. He will also receive a certificate. Callum entered this competition via the web site. Well done Callum - this is a wonderful effort!