

TAS TALKS #1

Weekly Newsletter of The Armidale School



Term 1, Week 1 – Wednesday 30 January, 2008

House on Duty is Croft- ah 6776 5843

Headmaster – *Murray Guest*

A warm welcome to all students, parents and staff to the 2008 school year after what I hope has been a happy holiday period. The start of 2008 brings some 85 new students to the School and I wish them well as they settle into their new school home.

The holiday period has been a busy one at the School, with plenty of work around the campus, including the commencement of the new Creative Arts Centre, construction of a new picket fence around the cricket oval, work on the front drive, formation of a new homework centre for Junior School and painting and new furniture in a number of areas. I offer thanks to the many staff who worked through the school break to make sure that all was ready for us this week.

Welcome to New Staff

As the new year begins, we welcome back two of our teachers who were away on leave through 2007.

Mr Barney Buntine returns from his year on exchange at Tabor Academy, USA and **Ms Kathryn Tamminga** returns from leave with her family.

We also welcome a good number of new teachers and other staff this year:

Mr Simon Ball joined us in a part-time capacity last year as a driver. He now takes up a full-time role as Assistant to the Deputy Headmaster and in charge of vehicles and the Q Store.

Mrs Kate Caster comes to us from the Hamburg School in Germany on teacher exchange with Susan Hoddinott for 2008 to teach Drama and English.

Mr Neil Druce will be known to a number of families through his work with academic support both at TAS and externally over recent years. Mr Druce will expand that supporting role to all our senior students as he takes on responsibility for the Study Centre this year.

Mr Mark Fulloon who has been associated with TAS through the art world for some time now joins the Visual Art Department to teach in a part-time capacity this year.

Mr Richard Lee joins us from Queensland to replace Tony Marjoram as Workshop Assistant in the Technology area.

Mr Brett Monley who has been a long term member of our outdoors staff adds the role of Master of Apprentices to his position as he works with out Year 11 students undertaking the new traineeship and apprenticeship program.

Mr Allan Moore comes to us after some years of teaching in Japan and, more recently, at Duval High School, to teach Japanese and ESL.

Ms Cressida Mort was welcomed to TAS late last year to the role of Director of Development. She and her family have now moved to Armidale and she will take on her new role full time.

Mr Alex Portell who will be known to many in the Junior School after his time as a teacher intern in 2007 now joins us to teach Year 3 whilst Mrs Hilary Harvey takes maternity leave.

Mr Peter Sharp has recently moved to Armidale and now joins us as an experienced teacher of Mathematics.

Mr Alex Smith, (TAS Old Boy, 1995–2000) joins the teaching staff in the PDHPE Department after teaching in the United Kingdom and more recently at Sydney Grammar School. Alex will also form part of our Residential staff, assisting with supervision in Middle School boarding.

Mr George Torbay joins the Music Department with a wealth of experience in the music world, including his study at the N.E. Conservatory of Music in Boston, teaching in Sydney and his role as Senior Education Officer and Chief Conductor Choral Music with the Arts Unit of the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Mr Peter Voysey continues his association with TAS after 4 years as a member of our Residential Duty Staff to now take up a full time teaching position in our Middle School.

Mrs Jacquie Whitland who was with us at the very end of last year continues as the Junior School Extension and Enrichment coordinator and will also offer computing support to other staff.

In addition to our new teaching staff, I am pleased to welcome a number of new GAP and boarding duty staff:

Duty Staff

Mr Tom Perry joins Abbott House

Miss Simone Shannessy joins Middle School boarding

Miss Lucy Southeren joins Middle School boarding

Miss Tenille Turner will be resident in the Medical Centre.

GAP Students

Steve Parker from Barfield School in the United Kingdom
Dean Maritz from Falcon College, Zimbabwe

Garth Kenny from Stanford Lake College, South Africa

Daniel Assef (TAS, 2008) returns to school to work with our Chaplain, Richard Newton.

Independent Schools' Cricket Festival

In the last full week of the holiday break, our 1st XI cricket side travelled to Canberra for the annual Independent Schools' Cricket Festival. This event is a wonderful start to the new year for our senior cricketers and a great opportunity to play quality schoolboy sides. Our boys acquitted themselves well once again in the final results and I congratulate them on their play. I also offer special thanks to our coach, Ian Patrick and manager Steve Barwick, both parents, along with Dick Hodgson for travelling with the team and leading their development into the second half of the season. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Christian Leadership Camp

Our assistant chaplain, Miss Anna Owen and new ministry trainee, Daniel Assef accompanied five students to Galston Gorge for a week of Christian leadership development workshops and conference activities. These senior students will now be better prepared for their work supporting young Christians at TAS in their spiritual journey through 2008 and I look forward to seeing the fruits of their work.

Professional Development for Teachers

Whilst others were enjoying the holiday break in the second half of January, with or without sunshine, a good number of our teaching staff were engrossed in training courses across a range of fields.

Twelve teachers from the Transition to Year 6 area continued their training in the WRAP (writing approach to reading) method of teaching spelling, grammar and handwriting skills. For eight of these teachers, their efforts have qualified them for the 'Dip. Cert in WRAP' award and I offer thanks for the commitment that this represents.

Nine others from Junior, Middle and Senior areas attended the hands-on Innovative Technology in Schools' Conference in Sydney, aimed at raising awareness of new teaching strategies which will benefit all our students.

Finally, three senior staff attended a 10 day intensive cadet leadership course, qualifying them for promotion to the rank of 1st Lieutenant in the Australian Army Cadets. The impact of this for our cadet program is significant as it gives us increased capacity to lead activities for our 240 cadets and I am grateful to these staff.

Murray Guest

Weekly Calendar

Wednesday 30 January

6.00pm Boarder's Formal Dinner

Thursday 31 January

6.00-7.00pm Transition Information Evening

Friday 1 February

3.45pm Chapel Choir rehearsal - Chapel

6.00-8.00pm Junior School Barbecue - McConville

Saturday 2 February

Full-bore Shooting - Wollomombi

Sunday 3 February

9.30am Choral Communion

Full-bore Shooting - Wollomombi

Monday 4 February

Drama Excursion to Sydney

1.20pm Senior strings rehearsal

3.45pm Orchestra rehearsal

Tuesday 5 February

7.45am TAS Singers rehearsal

Drama Excursion in Sydney

Wednesday 6 February

8.30am **Student ID and staff photos**

Drama Excursion returns from Sydney

6.00pm Big Band rehearsal

6.00pm Senior Jazz

Thursday 7 February

7.45am TAS Singers rehearsal

Friday 8 February

Tenterfield Show

Saturday 9 February

Tenterfield Show

House Coast Weekend

Sunday 10 February

House Coast Weekend

Monday 11 February

1.20pm Senior strings rehearsal

3.45pm Orchestra rehearsal

6.00-7.00pm **JS Parent Information Evening**

Tuesday 12 February

JS Swimming Carnival

7.45am TAS Singers rehearsal

Wednesday 13 February

6.00pm Big Band rehearsal

7.00pm Senior Jazz

6.00-7.00pm **JS Parent Information Evening**

General Notices

Log-in details coming soon for new students!

Get help from yourtutor

our school's instant, friendly and easy online tutoring service.

Open 4 - 10pm
Sunday to Friday

If your child has lost their log-in details email support@yourtutor.com.au or see Mrs Wark in the Maths Department



TAS is accepting applications now for 2009 Scholarships

Apply online at www.as.edu.au



TAS is offering Academic, Middle School, Boarding and Music scholarships for entry to the School in 2009.

Bursaries, including ICPA and Old Boys are also available.

Applications close on Friday 7 March, 2008.

Mathletics

This online revision mathematics program was trialled last year with Years 9 and 10 and it has become apparent that this program is better suited to Middle School students.

As such, this will be a component of the Maths program for boys in Years 6, 7 and 8.

Further details will be provided as soon as the school is advised of usernames and passwords.

For students who used this service in 2007 and would like to continue it can be purchased on an individual basis by visiting the website: <http://www.mathletics.com>

Seonia Wark, Head of Maths

Cadets

I was delighted with the overall success of the Annual Camp in November where the unusually high water levels resulted in the Canyon exercise being replaced by Whitewater Rafting and the Whitewater Canoeing being one of the better rides for some time. It is always a pleasure to watch the skills and teamwork come together after a year's training and as always the level of Resilience displayed by the boys was high.

I congratulate the following cadets whose awards or appointments were announced at the final parade at the conclusion of the Camp;

Camp Awards

- WO2 Curches Intestinal Fortitude Award
– CUO Henry Treloar
- Tri Service Shield for Best Cadet
– CDT Brock Sherriff
- Max Tavener Award for most Outstanding Lance Corporal (New award) – LCPL Archie Munro
- Matthew Slade Shield for Contribution to Headquarters – CDT Alex Pearson
- LTCOL D.J.Harrison Award for most Outstanding Section leader – CPL Jock Barnett
- RSL Trophy for most Outstanding Platoon Sergeant
–SGT Sam Adams
- Moffatt Sabre for most Outstanding Platoon Commander – CUO Lewis Crothers

Senior Appointments for 2008

- C Company Commander – CUO Robbie Oppenheimer
- B Company Commander – CUO Jesse Stevenson
- A Company Commander – CUO Henry Treloar
- SUO – CUO L Crothers

MAJ Grant Harris

HSC Tutoring

Some HSC tutoring sessions will re-commence in Week 2 with others commencing in the weeks following.

This tutoring is only available to students enrolled in Year 12. Please check the noticeboard in the Lawrance Quadrangle for an up-to-date timetable. If you have any questions about this program please contact Mrs Wark.

Musical Notes – Ian Slater

On behalf of the Music Department, welcome back to the new academic year and, as usual at TAS, we are hitting the ground running.

Firstly, welcome to Mr George Torbay replacing Mr Simon Hughes. Mr Torbay is an outstanding conductor especially with respect to choral music. Mrs Jodie Winton's timetable has been increased and she will be teaching Transition, Kindergarten and Years 1 and 2.

Please note the extra-curricular timetable below as many of the ensembles have changed day or time. We realise there will be clashes but we will address them as they occur.

I will be providing an itinerary of concerts and excursions in next week's TAS Talks, but this Sunday the Chapel Choir will be singing at the 9.30am Choral Communion.

Extra-Curricular Music 2008

Group	Time	Day	Venue	Teacher-in-Charge
3 - 5 Choir	p.4	Tuesday	Lower rehearsal room	Winton/Torbay
Junior Vocal	1.20	Tuesday & Thursday	Lower rehearsal room	Torbay/Winton
Chapel Choir	3.45-5.00	Friday	Chapel	Torbay
TAS Singers	7.45 - 8.30	Tuesday & Thursday	Lower Rehearsal room	Torbay
Orchestra	3.45 - 5.00	Monday	Lower rehearsal room	Slater
Senior strings	1.20 - 2.00	Monday	M1 (upstairs)	Slater
Junior strings	1.20 - 2.00	Monday	M2 (upstairs)	Eleanor Streatfield
Big Band	6.00 - 7.00	Wednesday	Lower rehearsal room	Slater
Senior jazz	7.00 - 7.30	Wednesday	Lower rehearsal room	Slater

Round Square



● Junior Round Square Conference

8-13 April, 2008 hosted by MLC School, Sydney (in the Blue Mountains) for Year 8 students

● Australasian Round Square Conference

27-30 September 2008 hosted by Bunbury College, WA for Year 10 and 11 students

● International Round Square Conference

3 -9 October 2008 in Western Canada for Year 10 and 11 students

Invitation to the International Round Square Conference in Western Canada - October 2008

"On behalf of the respective communities of Collingwood School and Glenlyon Norfolk School it is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2008 Round Square Conference, to be held Oct 3-9, 2008 in beautiful British Columbia, Canada.

The Round Square Conferences are unique experiences that bring delegates together from over 65 Round Square schools from around the world to learn, to share and to celebrate the IDEALS: Internationalism, Democracy, Environment, Adventure, Leadership and Service.

Collingwood School in Vancouver and Glenlyon Norfolk in Victoria will be co-hosting the 2008 Conference.

We will host one conference, but in two sites: Round Square Schools will be divided proportionately and will attend the conference in either Vancouver or Victoria.

We are proud and excited to present this year's theme: "Creating Sustainable Communities- Local to Global".

The timely nature of our theme cannot be underestimated: as humans, we are now finally beginning to recognize that the preservation of our Earth is perhaps the most important issue that we all face.

As the late Chief Seattle, a prominent First Nations leader of our region stated, "What befalls the Earth befalls the sons and daughters of the Earth".

Over the next year, each host school community will be busy bringing this conference to life. We are presently arranging for world-class speakers and workshop facilitators on our theme of sustainability to teach and inspire us.

Let us join together and make the positive environmental and social change that we are all capable of achieving, as we build sustainable communities: local to global."

Please see Mr Harris or Mrs Barnier for an application form or further information.

Student Services - *Vickey O'Brien*

Welcome to a great 2008!!

Photos

All students will have ID photos taken by Viewpoint Photographers on Wednesday 6 February.

Students must be dressed in their formal uniform on this day (white shirt and tie for boys, including blazer for Years 6-12).

Order forms should be returned to Reception by Friday 1 February.

Travel

Travel booking forms should be returned by the due dates: Easter weekend booking deadline - 5 March, End of term booking deadline - 28 March.

New boarding students should have completed and returned a bus application which will entitle them to a boarders pass and free travel to their home destination. Please contact the office if you need an application form.

New Boarder Passes will be issued to students in February, in the meantime boys should use last year's pass.

Students over the age of 16 are eligible for a Concession card which will entitle them to half fare travel. Eligible students should call into the Student Services Office at any time to collect this concession card.

If your child needs to travel home at other times during the term please give me a call, or he can call into my office. I will make the booking and he can collect his ticket prior to travel. Please remember to communicate with the Housemaster regarding travel arrangements at all times.

Please note the change to End-of-Term and Easter break-up dates detailed in the Headmaster's letter at the end of 2007.

Cadet Enrolment

Students in Years 7 are required to complete a Cadet Enrolment form prior to the first Activities Day on Friday 22 February. If you have not yet returned this form for your child please do so as soon as possible.

New students in Years 8 and 9 also need to complete an enrolment form. Please contact the Student Services Office if you need another Cadet Enrolment Form.

If you have any questions regarding travel, cadet enrolment or photos please contact Vickey O'Brien in the Student Services Office - 6776 5806.

Sporting News

Middle and Senior School Swimming Championships 2007



The following information relates to the TAS Swimming Championships to be held on Friday 15 February 2008 from 9:00am to 4:00pm in the TAS pool.

Note that 200m IM events will be swum at 1:25pm on Tuesday 12 February and the 200m freestyle events will be on Thursday 14 February from 7:30pm.

This is a 'mass participation' day. Boys are encouraged to swim in as many events as possible. Boys need to be able to swim at least 50m to swim in the various events. Most boys should be able to compete in the 50m freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. The 50m butterfly, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle and 200m individual medley are all more 'specialist' events and only those boys who are reasonably capable of doing these events should compete in them. A maximum of 5 boys per division per House may swim in the 200m freestyle.

• **Entry cards for individual events - note for competitors:** Competitors must complete a separate entry card for each event. Note that entry cards for 200m IM will be issued at Prefect's Assembly on Friday 1 February. To complete the card each competitor must write the following neatly on the card:

- Event No.
- Name
- Date of birth
- Then circle one item from each of the following columns: 'AGE', 'STROKE' and 'DISTANCE'.
(Note that 'AGE' is the age you turn this year, eg if you turn 16 this year then your age group is '16')

Divisions are:

- Sub-junior: aged 13 and under
- Junior: aged 14 and 15
- Senior: aged 16 and over

• Complete and return your cards to your House Captain at the relevant House meeting. House Captains must return them to me by Friday 8 February. Boys not competing must give their names to their House Captains. These boys will assist 'officials' at the carnival.

General Information

Where necessary heats for 200m IM events will be run at 1:30pm on, Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 Feb.

There are no false starts, ie the 'one start rule' applies.

The scoring system will be as follows:

House points

For individual events:

Place	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	59th	= 60th
Points	60	59	58	57	2	1

Plus Championship and Division points will be added to the House points for competitors who come in the first 8 places of an event.

For relays

Place	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Points	120	100	80	60	40	20

Age Championship points

The first eight in each event will score age championship points as follows

Place	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Points	10	8	6	5	4	3	2	1

Where two or more competitors finish the age championships on equal points the following 'count-back' system will be used: the swimmer with the highest 'division' (ie sub-junior, junior or senior) total will be declared the champion. If points are still equal then the competitor with the most 1st places in all events will be declared the champion. If points are still equal then the person with the most 2nd places will be declared the winner. This process will continue right down to 8th place. If competitors are still equal then they will be declared joint age champions.

Division Championship points

The first eight in each event will score division championship points as follows

Place	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Points	12	8	6	5	4	3	2	1

Where two or more competitors finish the division championships on equal points the following 'count-back' system will be used: the competitor with the most points in division events will be declared the division champion. If points are still equal then the person with the most 1st places in all events will be declared the winner. If points are still equal then the person with the most 2nd places in all events will be declared the winner. This process will continue right down to 8th place. If competitors are still equal then they will be declared joint division champions.

Only age events count towards age championship awards. Age events and division events count towards division championship awards.

The '**Tooth & Nail**' trophy will not count towards the aggregate House points score and will be awarded to the House winning the final relay event (ie. 7 x 50m, one boy from each age group).

Boys may compete in any number of events but these must be within their own age group and division.

On Friday 15 Feb, competitors for the first event of the day (12yrs & under, 50m freestyle) are to report to the marshalling area (southeast corner of the gym) by 8:45am. All remaining competitors and House members are to be seated by 8:50am. The order progressing from north to south – Green, Ross, Tyrrell, Abbott, Broughton, Croft.

Starts will be 'over the top'. ie the swimmer in the pool at the end of the previous race remains in the water until the next race has begun whereupon he immediately exits.

There are a huge number of heats to get through so no false starts are allowed. If you 'false start' you will still be allowed to swim for a 'time' but will not gain any points for your House or age championships.

Lunch (sandwiches) will be provided for all boarders and day boys who order a school lunch. All other day boys should bring their own or buy lunch at the kiosk. If you intend to buy lunch at the kiosk you should order your lunch at the kiosk prior to Friday 15 February (get a paper bag from the kiosk and write your name and order on it). Lunches will be distributed in the gym in House groups and eaten outside The Sports Centre.

Dress will be House polo shirts, blue shorts, TAS track-suits (optional) and gym shoes. Gym shoes should be worn whilst getting to and from The Sports Centre, but not in The Sports Centre. Day boys may travel to and from TAS in the above clothing but must wear a TAS tracksuit to and from school.

All competitors must swim in TAS Speedos.

All competitors will wear a House swim cap. These will be provided by TAS Sport. There will be a separate bucket of House caps for each House in the marshalling room. At the end of each race competitors will drop their cap in the bucket provided adjacent to the Lane 1 starting blocks. This will make it much easier for spectators to identify what house each competitor is in.

A limited number of House caps are available from Mr Hodgson (\$3 per cap)

Because of the chlorine in the pool water, competitors are strongly advised to wear goggles.

Boys may not colour their hair, nor write on their body with a texta pen.

Except for water, no food or drink may be consumed in the pool area.

Students may not leave The Sports Centre without permission from their respective Housemasters.

The TAS P & F invites all parents for lunch on the lawn in front of Abbott House from 1:00pm. Tea and coffee is available all day in The Green Room.

Dick Hodgson, Sportsmaster

Cricket

2nd XI Holiday Cricket

TAS 2nd XI fielded over the summer break with boys, parents and the odd staff member making up numbers.

Game 1 TAS v Easts

Andrew Patrick was prominent with both bat and ball taking 2–29 and scoring 55. David Brown and Josh Taylor also contributed with wickets. Josh Tombs and Rick O'Connor both got starts but could not go on. Chasing 197 TAS scored 124 but batted out 37 overs which was very promising.

Game 2 TAS v YCW

Having missed a number of rounds due to wet weather the team was keen for a good performance. YCW showed their experience and restricted TAS to just 68. Luke Webster scoring an impressive 22. An early wicket and the home side were a chance John Elliot and Matt Baker both bowling well and picking up the wickets. A missed chance and YCW defeated TAS by five wickets.

Game 3 TAS v Guyra

Batting first TAS were able to score 97 through a good knock by Luke Spooner 17 and Gerard O'Connor 15 (father of Rick) Again a little luck and the result may have been different. Graham Spooner (father of Luke) taking 3 wickets and affecting a run out.

Thank you to Hugh Piper and Steve Webster for their organisation over the break.

Andrew Junge, MIC Cricket

ADJCA Junior Cricket fixtures 2/2/08

10's	TAS v CSC	Dangar
11's	TAS v Uralla	Uralla 2
12's	Hillgrove v TAS	Rologas 2
13's	Easts v TAS	Adamsfield
14's	TAS Typhoons v TAS Tornadoes	Wakefield

16's Fixtures for Friday 1/2/08 and 7/2/08 due to Coast Weekend

TAS Taipans v TAS Tigers	Wakefield
TAS Terminators v Norths Kookaburras	Newling 2 (Wk 2 Thurs 7 Feb)

1st XI TAS v Ex- Services	TAS Oval
2nd XI TAS v Uralla	Rologas 1

Andrew Junge, MIC Cricket

Middle School

From the Head of Middle School

On behalf of the Middle School team I extend a warm welcome to new and returning students and their families as we commence a new school year. After what I trust was a most appreciated and rejuvenating holiday. I encourage the boys to apply themselves fully to their studies and become involved in all aspects of school life. I also urge the new students and their families to ask any of the Middle School staff for assistance or clarification if they are unsure of any of the new routines.

We are very pleased to welcome Mr Peter Voysey to our Middle School teaching team. Mr Voysey will take on the role of Year 6 homeroom teacher. He has also been appointed as White House Deputy Housemaster. Mr Voysey is no stranger to TAS as he has been actively involved in the TAS cadet programme, in coaching sport and a duty staff member in Abbott House. He completed his final practicum in the Junior School in 2007. He and Mrs McCarthy will make an excellent team of Year 6 homeroom teachers and we look forward to his overall contribution to our Middle School. Year 7 homeroom teachers are Mr Lincoln, Mr Hill and Mr Lloyd and responsible for Year 8 homerooms are Ms Boydell, Mr Nash and Mr Junge. Year 6 to 8 Learning Support is provided by Mrs Regina Pollard. My teaching responsibilities will include Philosophy and Learning Support.

In order to provide an appropriate educational programme, all Years 6 to 8 students will be tested in literacy and numeracy during Week 1 and 2. Based on the results of these diagnostic tests, classroom work and previous school reports it may be necessary to allocate students to a new Year 7 or 8 homeroom.

We look forward to your support and involvement with your son's education and wish the boys a happy and rewarding year.

Uniforms

We request that all uniforms, which includes hats and shoes, need to be clearly and correctly labelled with your son's name. Please ensure that name labels are used, not just written on with a pen.

Gift from Year 8

We would like to thank last year's Year 8 class and their parents for their most appreciated farewell gift of a finely crafted set of lettering. The words "Middle School" has been positioned on the front of the building above the office window.

Family BBQ and Parent Information Evening

This year we will be combining our Middle School Welcoming Family Barbeque and Parent Information Evening to help lessen the number of functions parents are invited to attend.

We appreciate that many of our families live some distance from Armidale and we greatly appreciate their attendance at school events. These functions will be held on Thursday, 14th February, which is the day prior to the swimming carnival. The Information Session will begin at 5:30pm in the Middle School and will be followed by the barbeque at McConville Centre. At 7:30pm families are invited to attend the War Cries Competition at the Sports Centre.

Contacting the Middle School

Throughout the year concerns regarding your son's educational programme should be directed to either their homeroom teacher or Mr Dempster on 6776 5819.

Parents may wish to leave a message on the Middle School answering machine by phoning 02-6776 5819.

The Middle School Staff Room phone number is 6776 5881, but unfortunately can only be answered when teachers are not on class and is a less reliable contact point.

Junior School

Looking Ahead

Wednesday 30 January

First day of Term 1, 2008
Week 1 of timetable
Sports Training commences

Thursday 31 January

Learn to swim lessons commence
Transition Information Evening 6-7pm in the
Transition classroom

Friday 1 February

Return JS Contact Booklet information to Junior
School Office
TAS Junior School BBQ for parents and children
6.00-8.00pm McConville Centre area
(BBQ and drinks provided at no charge to families)

Monday 4 February

Week 2 of timetable
Learn to Swim classes continue

Wednesday 6 February

Year 1 Assembly
Individual student photographs to be taken
FORMAL UNIFORM required *(if weather is hot,
please bring khakis to change into after the photos)*

Thursday 7 February

Dance Club recommences

Monday 11 February

Yrs K, 1 and 4 Parent Information Night in their
classrooms

Tuesday 12 February

Junior School Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 13 February

No assembly
Yrs 2, 3, 5 Parent Information Evening 6 - 7pm in
their classrooms

Thursday 14 February

Years 3, 4 & 5 Parent Information Evening 6-7pm

TAS Talks Newsletter

If you can access the newsletter electronically (either through email or the TAS website) please help us save a forest and let your teacher know that you don't need a hard copy.

Welcome to the 2008 School Year

It gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to the Junior School for what promises to be a wonderful 2008. To all those continuing students and families we are so glad to see you again after a refreshing holiday break. To our new students and their families we extend an especially warm welcome to you, as you settle into your new school. We look forward to getting to know you and we hope you make many new friends and thoroughly enjoy your time with us.

I trust that all children and families had a wonderful break and enjoyed many special times with family and friends.

New Staff

We are delighted to welcome Mr Alex Portell to the Junior School staff. Mr Portell completed his internship in the Junior School in 2007 and received glowing recommendations from both TAS staff and University staff with regard to his teaching, interactions with children, lesson preparation and delivery. Alex has an exemplary university record achieving a majority of high distinctions in subjects studied. Mr Portell will be teaching Year 3 whilst Mrs Hilary Harvey is on maternity leave.

WE are delighted that Mrs Theresa Grills will be with us for the first two terms this year. Mrs Grills is teaching Kindergarten KB for Term 1 while Ms Lana Bromwich is on long service leave, and will then teach Year 1 in Term 2 whilst Mrs Waters is on long service leave. As many of you would be aware, Mrs Grills is a wonderful asset to our staff.

Miss Jacqui Whitland will continue the work she started last term, in the identification of children who will benefit from extension and enrichment, and providing staff and children with ideas and activities to better cater for their needs. Her input has already been considerable, as she works with the Coordinator of Extension and Enrichment at TAS - Mrs Catherine Boydell (mother of Lachlan (Yr 4) and Xavier (Yr 2) Tonkin)

Changes to Playground

As many of you will have seen, the construction of the Creative Arts Centre has commenced and we look forward to its completion toward the end of this year. Planning of the Junior School playground has been in progress for some time, under the professional guidance of past parent, Mrs Catherine Nielson, and these plans are on display in the noticeboard outside the Junior School office. Please pop in and have a look at it, and feel encouraged to pass on suggestions you may have. Year 3, 4 and 5 will now have access to Dangarfield, with the supervision of staff, during recess and lunchtime, in place of the previously used Belfield.

Newly Refurbished Homework Centre

The basement of the Junior School has been rather miraculously turned into a very welcoming and spacious room for our Homework Centre. Mrs Richards, the coordinator, is delighted with the new space and its ready access to the playground and undercover area. We have no doubt that the children are going to enjoy this new room and the different activities it will allow.

School Enrolments

This year we commence with 169 children enrolled in the Junior School. There is one vacancy in Year 5, 3, 1 and Transition, three vacancies in Year 2 and five vacancies in our two Kindergarten classes. Please be mindful though that changes in enrolments often happen very quickly and sometimes unexpectedly, so interested parents are encouraged to indicate their interest at the enrolments office. We thank you for your ongoing support and continue to encourage you to come in and see us if you have any concerns, and if you don't have any concerns, please tell others and encourage them to join the TAS family!

Junior School Contact Booklet

All children were given a form today asking parents to let us know if they wish their details to be included in the Junior School Contact Booklet. This booklet is invaluable in making contact with other parents in your child's class and is generally a very treasured booklet of information most parents subscribe to. Family information will only be included in this booklet upon return of the letter handed out today, and only the information given on this form by parents, will be included in the booklet. This booklet is only done once a year.

Please return this form to the Junior School Office by this Friday 1st February.



Happy Birthday

Many children celebrated their birthday during the holidays and we trust you all had a wonderful day. This week we wish a very happy birthday to Kate Collins.

WRAP Graduates

I continue to be encouraged by the commitment and dedication that the Junior School staff show in their efforts to provide the best possible teaching strategies for your children. During the holidays they attended another six days of inservice, completing their WRAP studies. We now have 8 staff who have qualified to receive a Graduate Certificate in WRAP and this is a significant achievement for the School. Our heartfelt congratulations are extended to Mrs Lesley Brown, Mrs Theresa Grills, Ms Lana Bromwich, Mr Tim Hadfield, Mrs Kirsty Brunson, Mrs Anne Trenerry, myself and Mr Mike Hill (Middle School).

Mr Alex Portell also completed half of the WRAP certificate in January and we thank him for this valued preparation for teaching at TAS.

Should any parents wish to purchase a set of the WRAP phonogram cards to support their child at home, we have them in the Junior School Office and they can be purchased for \$45. They also come with a CD that demonstrates the correct pronunciation of each of the phonograms.

Junior School Barbecue

This is a wonderful opportunity for new and returning TAS families and staff to get together and have a most enjoyable evening. We welcome and encourage all families to attend. The barbecue will be held at the McConville Centre (enter via Brown Street – behind Middle School) on Friday, 1 February from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. The much loved jumping castle has been booked and will provide easy entertainment for the masses of children.

We are most grateful to the Senior School Prefects who will be preparing and serving the barbecue dinner. Do take this opportunity to introduce yourself to these fine young gentlemen. In the case of inclement weather the barbecue will be postponed to a later date.

Live Homework Help

This "Homework Help" is available to students in Years 4 and 5. An informative session, explaining its use and procedures, will be conducted by Mrs Seonia Wark, Assistant to the TAS Director of Studies, immediately prior to the Parent Information Evening for Years 4 and 5 on Monday 12th February and all families are encouraged to attend. Students will then be taken through a similar session the following day so they will be able to access this wonderful avenue for help with their homework.

Clubs in the Junior School

Book Club

We are delighted to advise you that Mrs Sandra Kaynes, mother of Jack in Year 3, will be running our Book Club this year. Book Club comes out twice a term for terms 1, 2 & 3 and once in term 4. It is a fabulous way to access a large variety of books and activities. A portion of all sales is accrued by the Junior School via a points system where new books are purchased for the children and resources for the teachers.

Dance Club

Mrs Collette Brazier will once again hold Dance Club on Thursday lunchtimes in the Green Room. All children from Kinder to Year 5 are welcome to attend. If your child is interested in going, please collect a letter from the Junior School Office, setting out payment details and a permission slip, which will need to be returned to the Junior School office with the terms' dance fees. Dance Club will commence next Thursday 7 February.

Latin Club

Ryan Young will again run Latin Club where children learn about the ancient Romans and their language, Latin, through craft, games and stories. For more details about when and where we meet for Latin club and what the cost is, please contact the Junior School Office

Chess Club

This is a very worthwhile club where children meet weekly to learn the finer points of the game, leading up to a local competition later in the year.

We are keen to have a parent help us with this. More details can be obtained from the Junior School Office. We would love to hear from you.

Art Club

Art Club will be held again starting on Monday 4 February from 3.45pm to 4.45pm in the bottom senior art room with Mr Mark Fulloon. The cost per child per term is \$15.00 which is to be paid to the Junior School office.

Junior School Vocal Ensemble

This group will rehearse each Tuesday and Friday at lunch-time with Mr George Torbay. Children from Years 2 to 5 are invited to attend. All queries should be directed to Mr George Torbay in the Music Department.

Junior String Ensemble

Mr Ian Slater will be conducting the Junior String Ensemble during lunchtime on Fridays commencing at 1.30pm. All queries should be directed to Mr Ian Slater.

Gardening Club

Mrs Marie Ashmore will again be holding the Gardening Club on Wednesdays starting on 6 February at lunchtime from 1.10pm to 2pm. Children from Years 2 to 5 are welcome to attend however there are only 15 spots available and these are allocated on a first in best-dressed arrangement. There is no cost. If your child is interested, please let the Junior School Office know as soon as possible.

Drama Club

Ms Jocelyn Ryan will be running the Drama Club this year commencing this Thursday 31 January from 3.45pm to 4.45pm in the Drama Room.

If enough interest is shown by infants children (Transition to Year 1), it may be possible for another class to be held that will better suit the needs of this age group. Please direct your queries to the Junior School Office.

GAS (God and Stuff)

GAS will be held at lunch time on Fridays commencing at 1.30pm. Students are to meet Ms Anna Owens in the undercover area and she will take them to the Green Room. Students from Kinder to Year 5 are able to attend at no cost.

Tennis

Mr Justin Sherriff runs group tennis lessons on Fridays at lunchtime from 1.10pm to 2pm on the Chapel Street tennis courts. Further queries may be directed to Justin on 0423 915 850.

Formal Uniform – Wednesday 6 February

A reminder that children are required to wear formal uniform on this date as individual and family school photographs will be taken. Please ensure that your photograph order is returned to the Junior School Office by that day..

Parent Information Evenings 6–7pm

Parents are warmly invited to attend these evenings in Week 3. They will begin in the newly refurbished Homework Centre with drinks and nibbles. Groups then move off to their child's classroom. These sessions are informative and also an excellent opportunity to get to know other parents of children in your child's class. They are also very enjoyable! Teachers will explain their expectations and procedures operating within the classroom. On Monday 11 February Kinder, Years 1 and 4 will be held and on Wednesday 13 February Years 2, 3 and 5 will be held.

Student Banking

We are delighted to advise that Mrs Sandra Kaynes, mother of Jack in Year 3, will be running our Student Banking for this year. Banking will recommence during Week 2 and children are asked to bring their bank books to the Junior School Office each Tuesday before school. Banking will be completed on Tuesday night and books returned to children on Wednesday.

If any child would like to join up for student banking, please see Mrs Nies in the Junior School office for an application pack. Please note that the application form will need to be returned to the Junior School office for signing and stamping.

Junior School Swimming Carnival

The Junior School Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 12 February at the TAS Pool commencing at 9am. Children in Transition will enjoy special water activities on the lawn area outside the pool as well as participating in novelty events in the pool. Parents of children in Kindergarten to Year 5, together with their children, are asked to complete the Events Nomination Form that will be sent home this week, indicating which events your child/children will be participating in.

Please note the following before making your event selection:

Students who are able to swim 50m (2 lengths of the TAS Pool and are in Level 4 or above of the TAS swimming program) must nominate for the 50m freestyle event but may enter in 25m events for the other strokes.

Students may only enter either the 100m OR the 200m Individual Medley, not both.

50m and 100m events are used for PSSA and NCSA Representative Team selection.

Children are awarded points for their Sporting House for each event in which they participate, regardless of placings.

Championship points for event placings will be greater for 50m and 100m events.

Age is taken as the AGE YOUR CHILD IS, OR WILL TURN, by the end of 2008.

Please note that it is far easier for the organisers to withdraw a child from an event, rather than adding them to an event at the last minute. No child in Years 4 and 5 may enter an extra race on the day, they must have

pre-nominated, so please be careful about your entry forms and, if in doubt, enter on your form – you can withdraw on the day.

Please return this form to Mrs Brunson in the Year 2 classroom by Monday 4 February.

Novelty events will be held for the Learn-to-Swim children so that all students in the Junior School will be involved in the carnival. Nominations for these events are not necessary. Students are asked to wear sports uniform to school on Tuesday with their coloured House t-shirt. TAS swimmers only are to be worn.

Parents and other family members are most welcome to attend to cheer on the children. We look forward to seeing you there.

Swimming Carnival helpers required

Timekeepers will be required for our swimming carnival. If you feel you can help, please see Mrs Kirsty Brunson, Junior School Sports Co-ordinator by Friday 8 February. Lunch will be provided for our wonderful volunteers.

Speech Day Sports Awards – Points Allocation

Sports points are allocated in the following areas and are accumulated for the Speech Day Sports Awards.

Points can be gained in any of the following areas.

8 points – (4 children may be nominated, by the coaching staff, to get points from 8,6,4, and 2, based on sports-manship and outstanding skill)

Winter sport

Summer sport

4 points

Age swimming champion

NCSA Swimming

CIS Swimming

Age Athletics Champion

NCSA Athletics

CIS Athletics

Representative sports (This must be a sport directly linked to the sport you play at TAS– eg, hockey, basketball, cricket, soccer)

1st Cross Country

1st Triathlon

PSSA Cross Country

2 points

Runner up swimming champion

Runner up athletics champion

2nd Cross country

2nd Triathlon

1 point

3rd Cross Country

3rd Triathlon

This allows all children to have the possibility of gaining a maximum 12 points in their given area. Swimming – 12 points, Athletics – 12 points, Sport + Rep sport – 12 points, Cross Country + Triathlon – 12 points.

After the points are accumulated, awards are given as Gold Sports Awards, Silver Sports Awards and Bronze Sports Awards, depending on the total amount of points

allocated. There will be Infants awards and Primary awards.

Kirsty Brunson, Sports Co-ordinator

Contacting the Junior School

Ph: 6776 5817

Parents may wish to leave a message on the Junior School answering machine by phoning 02-6776 5817. These messages are noted prior to school, during the recess and lunch breaks and after 3.30pm.

The Junior School Staff Room phone number is 6776 5864, but unfortunately can only be answered when teachers are not in class and is a less reliable contact point.

As it is not possible for teachers to answer calls during class times or they may have playground supervision during breaks from class, a message left on the Junior School answering machine will enable staff to return your call at a more suitable time.

Liaison Parents

The Junior School Liaison Parents are volunteers from each class who assist families and staff by providing an important link between the school and parents. The Liaison Parents welcome new families to the school, organise social activities so parents are able to meet each other and are a contact point for anyone unfamiliar with procedures in the Junior School. The staff of the Junior School is most appreciative of these parents for their time and commitment to this valued service.

The 2008 Liaison Parents are listed below so that our new parents may know whom to contact. The Head of Junior School, Mrs Lou Forsythe, is always available to meet and discuss matters with parents.

Transition	Mrs Pia McBean	Ph 6771 5552
	Mrs Sandra Grant	Ph 6775 1939
Kindergarten	Mrs Wendy Alford	Ph 6775 1049
	Mrs Jo Morris	Ph 6772 7224
	Mrs Belle Close	Ph 6778 2166
Year 1	Mr Andrew Slack-Smith	Ph 6773 3093
	Mr Phil Emanuel	Ph 0416022549
Year 2	Mrs Mandy Fenwicke	Ph 6772 2162
	Mrs Belinda Niemeyer	Ph 6775 1808
Year 3	Mrs Sandra Kaynes	Ph 6772 3370
	Mrs Chrissie McKenzie	Ph 6772 6998
	Mr Michael Chambers	Ph 0427728289
Year 4	Dr Maree Puxty	Ph 6775 1982
	Mr Andrew Brissett	Ph 0402811081
Year 5	Mrs Suzie Wright	Ph 6772 4388
	Mrs Karen Pears	Ph 6778 4047

Early Morning Procedure

When arriving at School, children are encouraged to visit their classroom to unpack necessary items and then proceed to the playground where there will be a teacher on

duty. Playground supervision commences at 8:15am and parents are asked not to leave their children at School prior to this time.

Dining Room Lunches

Parents of children in Years 3, 4 and 5 may be interested in their child having lunch in the Dining Room. For more information, please speak with your child's class teacher.

Lunch Orders from the Canteen

Children can order their lunch from the canteen. Attached to this week's newsletter will be a price list and what is available to order. Please place lunch orders on a paper bag which has your child's name, class, order and amount of money enclosed, then place the money inside the bag and fold over. Please leave the lunch order with your class teacher in infants classes, whilst primary children are encouraged to hand them in at the canteen. The lunch orders will be handed in at recess.

Naming Belongings

Parents are encouraged to name all their children's belongings. Whilst we endeavour to return all lost property it becomes incredibly difficult if items are not named. A blue lost property box is in the Junior School Homework Centre room and parents are encouraged to check here in the first instance if items are lost. Please ensure all second hand clothing is marked with the correct name.

Absences from School

Parents are asked to advise the School if their child is absent by 9.00am on the day and a note from the parent explaining the absence is required to be sent to the teacher upon the child's return to school. We suggest that if your child has been ill during the night or in the morning, the best place for them is at home where they will receive the constant care necessary.

Parents of students who are ill at school, will be contacted so the parents can decide what is best for their child.

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

Excursion Arrangements

Parents will be notified of all forthcoming excursions through the Junior School bulletin, the date, venue, cost and staff attending. Signed permission notes will be required for all excursions otherwise the child will not be able to attend. Excursion and performance costs will be automatically debited to your child's school account.

Junior School Assemblies

Our first assembly will be held on Wednesday 6 February in the Memorial Hall starting at 2.45pm. Year 1 will be hosting this assembly and we look forward to seeing you there.

For those new to the school, assemblies are held each week and hosted by a different class each week with all classes,

including Transition, taking a turn. Awards are handed out to many children and class items are presented. These assemblies give the children the opportunity to perform in front of their peers on a regular basis throughout the year and their confidence in these situations becomes considerable. Mr Murray Guest, our Headmaster attends as many as possible, and joins in the fun of this activity.

Homework Centre

This service to parents operates every afternoon from 3.30 – 5.30pm in the Junior School Homework Centre. Mrs Libby Richards oversees this service and provide appropriate care and direction to students attending. Afternoon tea is served, time allocated for homework and then play time. The charge of \$3 per hour. (or part thereof), which includes afternoon tea and supervision, is charged to your child's school account. Please note that considerable late fees apply to any child not collected by 5.30pm.

Should you require your child to attend the Junior School Homework Centre, please ensure you have completed the necessary form beforehand. Please also inform your child's class teacher if you wish your child to attend on a particular day. For a more unexpected need, a phone call to either 6776 5817 or 6776 5864 before 3pm (except on Wednesdays when calls need to be received by 2.30pm because of Assembly arrangements) will ensure your child is booked in and informed of the changed arrangement.

On any occasion, should your child not be collected from school, they will automatically be escorted to the Homework Centre and you can collect them from there.

NORCO Milk Lids

As an ongoing fundraiser for the Junior School we ask all families to collect the NORCO milk bottle lids. Each lid collected returns 10c to the Junior School and this money is used to buy classroom resources. Lids can be left in the big blue container in the hall leading into the staff room.

Junior Sport

Please note that all sports training commences on Wednesday 30th January – from 3.45pm to 4.45pm. For the new children who are keen to become involved in summer sport, please see Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon this week. If you are already involved in a town team competition for summer, you may continue with that team for the remainder of the term. Please note that sport is compulsory for Years 3, 4 & 5.

Cricket

Please note that cricket starts again this Saturday 2 February.