

TAS TALKS #1

Weekly Newsletter of The Armidale School

Term 1, Week 1 – Wednesday 28 January, 2009

House on Duty is Abbott– ah 6776 5829

Headmaster – Murray Guest



Welcome to all families to the 2009 school year after what I hope has been a happy and refreshing school holiday. Once again we begin the year with very strong enrolments and I particularly welcome the 83 new students who join us this term.

I was very pleased to receive the news in December of our very good HSC results and I offer congratulations to the group as a whole – and their teachers – on their hard work and success. Particular recognition goes to Hamish Barnet as School Dux for his UAI of 98.65.

The holiday break also saw a good deal of school activity and I look forward to hearing and seeing the reports from our cricketers who travelled to Melbourne, bike riders in the Blue Mountains, Junior School students who visited Tezakayama in Japan and senior boys who attended a Christian Leadership Camp in Sydney.

Welcome to New Teaching Staff

I am very pleased to welcome four new Middle and Senior School teachers in 2009:

- Mrs Nicolette Burraston joins us from Cowra High School to teach in the Middle School (Year 7 Homeroom) and Senior Science,
- Miss Fiona Taber comes to us from a background in environmental education and industry to teach in the Middle School (Year 8 Homeroom) and HSIE,
- Ms Julie Flanagan joins us from Kinross Wolaroi School in Orange to teach Senior English and
- Mr Tim Wheaton comes to us from NEGS to teach Maths and Science.

New GAP Students

We also welcome four new GAP students this term:

- Michael Riley (Zimbabwe)
- Warrick Dawson (Stanford Lake College)
- Joel Muli (Starehe)
- Takudzwa Gonese (Zimbabwe)
- George Smith (UK) – 6 months

Other Staffing Changes

- Ms Hoddinott returns from her year of exchange in Germany
- Mrs Burke returns to the IT Department from maternity leave
- Mr Finco joins the permanent teaching staff and continues in the Music Department as well as taking on responsibilities as Deputy Housemaster of Tyrrell House.
- Mr Newton adds to his role of Chaplain this term as he replaces our Dean of Students Mr Jones who is on Long Service Leave
- Mr Caldwell has been appointed as Croft Housemaster
- Mr Lincoln has been appointed as Abbott Housemaster
- Mr Andrew Busby continues his residential staff role in Croft House as newly Deputy Housemaster
- Mr Alex Smith transfers as co-Deputy Housemaster of Middle School boarding to co Deputy Housemaster of Abbott House this year.

Creative Arts Centre

As our newest building pushes toward completion, arrangements for our official opening ceremony on March 20 and first public performance on March 21 are being finalised. The opening of this building will be a milestone in the School's history as it makes a bold statement about the importance of the creative and performing arts in TAS life. I encourage all TAS families and friends to make a note of these dates in their diaries as we see a new chapter in school life open.

Purchase of YCW for the TAS Technology Centre

I am delighted to report that the School recently acquired the YCW property which adjoins the school farm (Meadowfield) on Canambe Street.

The YCW Club building of some 1,000 square metres is to be substantially renovated and expanded as the new TAS Technology Centre, funded by the Federal Government under the Trades Training in Schools Program.

This is an exciting and important acquisition for the School as it will enable us to create a much larger and better equipped facility than originally envisaged without losing our valued green space on the main campus.

It is expected that work on the Technology Centre will be completed this year for new courses commencing in 2010.

The YCW Property also comes with a large floodlit playing field which is an important part of Armidale's sporting facilities. Plans are now being put in place to make some improvements to the field, lighting and other facilities as we continue to support those groups who use the grounds.

Extension and Enrichment in Years 3, 4 and 5

The Extension and Enrichment program that began in Junior School last year with learning centres and enrichment days will evolve further this year as a Year 3/4/5 multi-age-class is formed for literacy and numeracy work with Ms Whitland on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

This class will be made up of those children whom we know would benefit from moving through their core literacy and numeracy work faster and then tackling extension tasks. At the same time this will give class teachers in Years 3, 4 and 5 smaller groups to work with in their literacy and numeracy three mornings a week.

Children for this class will be identified in the first few weeks of this term through the information we already have from school reports, NAPLAN results and teachers' knowledge of our Junior School children.

Parents are also invited to contribute to this identification through a nomination process and more information on this will be in TAS Talks.

I expect that the class will start in Week 5.

Murray Guest

Weekly Calendar

Wednesday 28 January

1.20–2.00pm	Middle School Trio (by invitation)
4.30–5.30pm	Junior Stage Band rehearsal
6.00pm	Boarders' Formal Dinner
6.00–7.00pm	Big Band rehearsal
7.00–7.30pm	Senior Jazz

Thursday 29 January

7.45–8.30am	TAS Singers rehearsal
6.00pm	JS Transition Information Evening

Friday 30 January

3.45–5.00pm	Chapel Choir Rehearse in Chapel
6.00pm	JS Barbeque at McConville Centre Fullbore Shooting Camp–Belmont, Brisbane

Saturday 31 January

Fullbore Shooting Camp–Belmont, Brisbane

Sunday 1 February

9.30am	Choral Communion Fullbore Shooting Camp–Belmont, Brisbane
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Monday 2 February

Lunch	Strings rehearsal – open to all Grade 2+
1.20–2.00pm	Junior Strings

Tuesday 3 February

7.45am	TAS Singers rehearsal
12.00noon	P&F Liaison Parent Lunch –Broughton Courtyard

Wednesday 4 February

	Student ID photos
1.20–2.00pm	Middle School Trio (by invitation)
4.30–5.30pm	Junior Stage Band rehearsal
6.00–7.00pm	Big Band rehearsal
7.00–7.30pm	Senior Jazz

Thursday 5 February

7.45–8.30am	TAS Singers rehearsal
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Friday 6 February

4.00pm	Houses depart for the coast
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Saturday 7 February

House Coast Weekend

Sunday 8 February

House Coast Weekend

Monday 9 February

Lunch	Strings rehearsal – open to all Grade 2+
1.20–2.00pm	Junior Strings
6.00pm	JS Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 10 February

7.45am	TAS Singers rehearsal JS Swimming Championships
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Chaplain-Richard Newton

1 Corinthians 13

The School Lesson

A little while back a fellow teacher asked me “why do we read 1 Corinthians 13 so often in assembly”? He must of thought I really like this passage or perhaps we really lacked in the particular area that the reading emphasises. Which of course is love.

Well it is true that this is a good passage of scripture, hard to ignore and it has some great advice we probably do lack, but the reason the read it so regularly is that it is our School reading or School lesson, which implies we might learn something from it.

I have already said that it is all about love. If I asked a bunch of blokes what they loved they would normally say football, the beach, Mr Harris... all of which are so easy to love. So why do we need this regular reminder to love.

The context of this passage is that the sacrificial, service of others, action man type love talked about in the passage is the love needed to conform people who are different perhaps in every respect to become God’s united church family. This is the type of love demonstrated most perfectly when God wanted to unit us with himself and gave himself for us and for our sake so that we may be united to himself, even though we are so vastly different in every respect to God. This is how he showed his love for us when we had our backs turned to him, ignoring him even despising him he acted in love.

As a school community we need this sort of sacrificial love putting the interest of others first type of love, because in case you haven’t noticed we are not all the same. We have different interests, different gifts and abilities, different agendas, but we function as a whole, we need to think of others first if we are to build one another up.

We are human, we do not do this well, and we need this reminder regularly, to imitate Christ and His love for us.

General Notices

Young Scientist Competition Awards

All Year 10 students undertake an original research project during the year and in 2008 three boys had their reports on those projects entered in the Science Teachers Association Young Scientist Competition.

This competition is organised by the Science Teachers Association of NSW in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney, CSIRO and BHP Billiton and has Dr Karl Kruzelnicki as its Patron.

Over 6000 entries were received and I congratulate Oliver Smith on being awarded a Certificate of High Achievement while Jock Barnett and Andrew Grigg both gained Certificates of Commendation.

Mr W D Richards, Science Co-ordinator

Nutritional Symbol System (NSS)

When you next visit the TAS Dining Hall, you will notice some significant visual changes.

As part of the Healthy Active Australia Grant received by the PE Department last year, a new Nutritional Symbol System (NSS) has been developed.

The relevant signage has been implemented in the dining hall. The NSS refers not only to carbohydrate, protein and Vvegetables/salads, but more importantly, the appropriate serving sizes of each and is age-related.

The school menu has been fine tuned by Gillian Woodward (a nutritionist in Armidale) to ensure the healthiest possible variety of foods are available for the students. Meals have been colour-coded to highlight the nutritional value of each serving, and signs demonstrate the ideal portion selection.

This program is also supported by explanation and discussion in the boarding houses and through the school’s PDH/PE program. I have attached the NSS guide for your perusal. If you have any questions regarding the NSS or its implementation, please contact me at jpenning@as.edu.au.

Jim Pennington

NUTRITIONAL SYMBOL SYSTEM

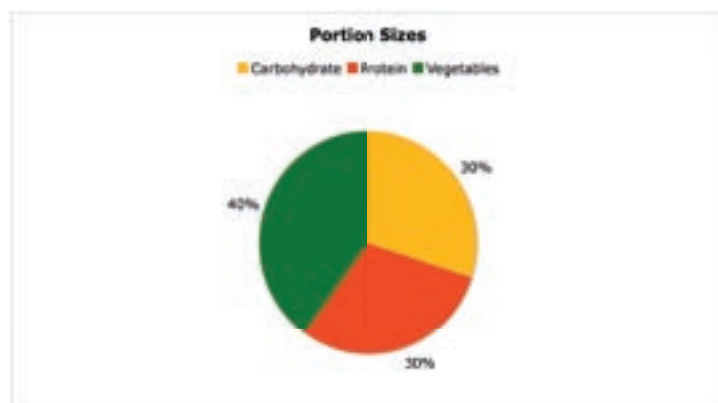
The Nutritional Symbol System (NSS) is designed to assist you in choosing the correct balance of foods for optimal nutrition and performance. Each serving of food is colour coded according to its nutritional value. This is broken down into Carbohydrates, Proteins and Vegetables/Salads.

Carbohydrate: Is the critical source of energy for exercising the body’s muscles.

Protein: Is derived from amino acids which provide the building blocks for the growth and repair of the body.

Vegetables/Salads: A balance of 5 fruits/salads everyday is the key to a healthy body and the prevention of many diseases.

Using the coloured plate as a guide, try to select your meal creating the healthy alternative.



Choral Program 2009

Minisingers (Years K-2)

Wednesday 4:00 – 4:45pm

Cantilena Singers (Years 3-6)

Wednesday 4:00 – 5:00pm

Cantilena Folk Singers (Years 5/6 by audition)

Wednesday 5:00 – 5:30pm

New England Singers (Year 7-12)

Monday 4:15 – 5:30pm

Enrolling Now

Enquiries: 6772 7203



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.

TAS is accepting applications now for 2010 Scholarships



Apply online at www.as.edu.au

TAS is offering Academic, Middle School, Boarding and Music scholarships for entry to the School in 2010

Bursaries, including ICPA and Old Boys are also available.

Applications close on Friday 6 March, 2009

A Message from Edwards Buses- re Local Bus Travel



Welcome back to another school year!

For those newcomers to bus travel we hope that the following information will answer any questions that you may have.

Parents/Guardians must apply for a new travel pass when your child has

- Changed schools
- Changed address
- Moved from Year 2 to Year 3
- Moved from Year 6 to Year 7
- Repeated a school year
- Not travelled by bus before

A Bus Travel Application can be obtained from reception at your school. Once you have completed the form please return it to the school – the travel co-ordinator will then forward it to Edwards Coaches.

When the application has been processed a Travel Pass will be issued to your child and posted to the address on the application.

If you require advice on which bus your child/children can catch and from where please phone Edwards Coaches on 6772 3116.

At the beginning of Term 1 there is a 2 week period for application forms to be submitted to the office. After this time students must show their pass or pay a fare of \$1.50 per trip.

If your child is not eligible for a travel pass then a fare must be paid.

- \$1.50 per trip
- \$6.00 per week, morning or afternoons only (place money in envelope and give to driver)
- \$12.00 per week, for mornings and afternoons (place money in envelope and give to driver)
- \$60.00 per term, morning or afternoons only (must be purchased from Edwards Coaches office)
- \$120.00 per term, morning and afternoons only (must be purchased from Edwards Coaches office)

Edwards Coaches is within The Ministry of Transport Guidelines to refuse travel to any student who does not show his/her pass or does not pay a fare.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact our office – 6772 3116.

“The Code of Conduct for Students on Buses” has been put in place to ensure that everyone has a safe and pleasant journey and therefore each passenger must abide by the Code.

We look forward to having you travel with us in 2009.

Edwards Coaches Staff

Counsellor's Corner

The turn from the old year to the new creates opportunities for reflection on our past, present and future. It can be fruitful to take some time to connect with our lived experience.

Looking forward, looking back, staying in the here-and-now. Each has its place in our experience. It is important to be able to reflect on our lives so far, to learn from experience, to deepen our understanding of the formative influences on our lives. This is looking back. Likewise it is important to be able to dream of possible futures, to formulate short, medium and long-term goals, to have something to aim for, to identify the deep values we want to live by. This is looking forward. In just the same way it is important to learn how to be fully present to the moment we are living right now, to really 'turn up' for our lives in the present moment, to engage, to be involved in what we are thinking, feeling and doing.

It is just as useful to attend to how we engage with these reflections. To focus on our failures, regrets, 'if only' thoughts, leads to a real beat up when we look back. To focus on what we can draw from the past, the lessons we can learn, to notice the things that have served us well, recognising the patterns that ceased to serve us well long ago, is more positive, profitable, and practical. Likewise, looking forward is not the same thing as making new year's resolutions. Goal-setting needs to be practical and achievable, identifying underlying values is not about perfectionism or pipe dreams but about identifying what really matters in our lives, concretely and specifically. Developing strategies for returning to an awareness of the present moment is to engage in practising the skills of paying attention, really noticing what is going on in the flow of your consciousness, committing yourself to 'turning up' for your life moment by moment.

All the very best for the year ahead, Rob Hadfield

Foundation Facts

Welcome back everyone

On behalf of all the members of the Foundation Board, I welcome you back to school for another year which promises to be even more exciting and filled with action than the last.

You will have all noticed the magnificent Creative Arts Centre, which is rapidly approaching its completion and I would like to remind you that there are still seats available if you would like to purchase one. It is a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation and a commemorative plaque will be placed on the seat in your honour.

There are two concerts open to TAS families and the community to celebrate the opening directed by George Torbay and starring students, Old Boys, local and interstate performers. These will be held on March 21 at Twilight (4:30pm) and Evening (7:30pm). Tickets will be available soon, so please check your diaries and set aside the date to come and be part of the excitement.

If you have any questions, please call Cressida on 6776 5839 or email on cmort@as.edu.au

Student Services - Ms O'Brien

Photos

ID and class/year group photos will be taken on Wednesday 4 February. Students must be dressed in their formal uniform on this day (white shirt & tie for boys, including blazer for Years 6-12).

ALL students will have their individual photo taken - if your child is away on the day a follow-up photo day for absentees will be held on Thursday 12 February.

Order forms should be returned to Reception by Monday 2 February

Travel

If your child requires travel back home 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.

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 Boarders Passes will be issued in February to students whose boarders pass has expired, in the meantime boys should use last year's pass.

Students over the age of 16 are eligible for a Concession card, which entitles them to half fare travel.

Eligible students should call into the Student Services Office at any time to collect this concession card.

Cadet Enrolment

Students in Years 7 need to complete a Cadet Enrolment form prior to the first Activities Day on Friday 27 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 have completed a cadet enrolment form. Please contact the Student Services office if you need another form.

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

Music Notes - Ian Slater

Happy New Year to you all and Kung Hei Fat Choi to you all from the Music Department. Another busy and exciting year awaits and as usual we hit the ground running.

Rehearsals will start on Thursday and will be as follows:

Strings	Monday lunch - open to all of Grade 2+
TAS Singers	Tuesday and Thursday mornings 7.45 - 8.30
Junior Stage Band	Wednesday 4.30 - 5.30
Big Band	Wednesday 6.00 - 7.00
Senior Jazz	Wednesday 7.00 - 7.30
Middle School Trio	Wednesday lunch 1.20 - 2.00 (by invitation)
Chapel Choir	Friday 3.45-5.00 in the TAS Chapel
Junior strings	To be confirmed
Brass group	To be confirmed
Drum group	To be confirmed
Woodwind group	To be confirmed
Junior vocal ensemble	To be confirmed
Middle school vocal	To be confirmed

I would like to encourage any boy from Years 9 - 12 to take part in the TAS Singers this term. Mr George Torbay has written music especially for the group to perform at the opening of our new Creative Arts Centre and I would like a big choir for this event. Also participating will be a string group and jazz band.

Dates for you diary for Term 1:

<u>Sunday 1 February</u>	Choral Communion TAS Chapel 9.30 - 10.30am
Tuesday 17 February	In-House Concert Big School 6.00 - 7.00pm
Saturday 7 March	Musica Viva concert 7.00pm
Sunday 15 March	Choral Communion TAS Chapel 9.30 - 10.30am
Friday 20 March	Creative Arts Centre opening and VIP Concert
Saturday 21 March	Creative Arts Centre Concert
Saturday 21 March	Autumn Festival
Tuesday 24 March	In-House Concert Big School 6.00 - 7.00pm
Sunday 5 April	Easter Service TAS Memorial Hall 7.00 - 8.20pm

And finally,
What kind of microphone works best for an oboe in a live band?
A cordless with a dead battery.

Activities

NEED A CHALLENGE!!



WALK THE KOKODA TRACK

THIS IS WHERE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS
FOUGHT THE INVADING JAPANESE IN
1942

TAS EXPEDITION: 2 - 13 OCTOBER 2009

20 POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR
STUDENTS, PARENTS AND STAFF

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT TREVOR
THATCHER PH 0427765806

OR CHECK-OUT THE TAS WEBSITE:

[http://www.as.edu.au/current_happenings/
activities/kokoda/kokoda.php](http://www.as.edu.au/current_happenings/activities/kokoda/kokoda.php)

Sporting News

Middle and Senior School Swimming Championships 2009

The following information relates to the TAS Swimming Championships to be held on Friday 13 February 2009 from 9:00am to 4:00pm in the TAS pool.



Note that 200m IM events will be swum at 1:25pm on Tuesday 10 February and the 200m freestyle events will be on Thursday 12 February from 7:30pm.

This is a 'mass participation' day. You are encouraged to swim in as many events as possible. You 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. 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 6 February**. Boys not competing must give their names to their House Captains. These boys will assist 'officials' at the carnival.

General Information

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 first race in each event should contain the best competitors. In the 100m freestyle events there will be two competitors per lane except for the first race in each age group where there will be one competitor per lane.

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 13 February, 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 – Croft, Green, Ross, Tyrrell, Abbott, Broughton.

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 13 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 or blades (blue).

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.

Times swum in these Championships will be used to determine which boys will be selected in TAS teams to compete at The Monckton Shield and NCSA carnivals (plus PSSA for Year 6 boys).

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



Fitness Boxing at TAS

(This is not a full contact class)

Join a 10 week dynamic course

Learn boxing skills such as:

- punching
- evasive techniques
- pad work
- foot work.

Day: Thursdays
Time: 5:15pm (60 minute class)
Location: Green Room, TAS Sports Centre
Start date: 29 January 2009
Duration: 10 Weeks
Price: \$70.00 (TAS students \$60.00)

No experience necessary

For bookings contact Chris Doherty on
67711158 or 0414 984 378

Middle School

From the Head of Middle School

On behalf of the Middle School staff, welcome to new and returning students and their families to the start of the 2009 year. We trust you had a wonderful family holiday and your son's return rejuvenated and prepared to begin a year of academic studies and sporting and cultural endeavours.

We are very pleased to welcome two new homeroom teachers: Ms Fiona Taber, Year 8 and Mrs Nicci Burraston Year 7.

Homeroom teachers for this year are: Year 6 - Mrs Robyn McCarthy and Mr Peter Voysey; Year 7 - Mr Ian Lloyd, Mrs Nicci Burraston and Mr Jason Lincoln and Year 8 - Mr Jeremy Nash, Ms Catherine Boydell and Ms Fiona Taber. My teaching responsibilities will include Year 7 Philosophy and Learning Support. Mrs Regina Pollard will be responsible for Year 6 to 8 Learning Support and Mrs Alison Evans will be keeping the Middle School Office running on an even keel in her role as Middle School Administrative Assistant.

In order to provide an appropriate educational program]students will be tested during weeks 1 and 2. Based on the results of these diagnostic tests, classroom work and previous school reports it may be necessary to assign students to a new Year 7 or 8 homeroom.

We look forward to your support and involvement in your son's education throughout the year.

Departing Gift from Year 8

We would like to thank the 2008 Year 8 students and their parents for their most appreciated gift of a very fine outdoor setting. The setting has been placed on the lawn in front of Middle School and is being well used and enjoyed by staff and students.

Uniforms

We request that all uniforms, which includes hats, shoes, school bags and laptop bags need to be clearly and correctly labelled with your son's name.

Family BBQ/Parent Information Evening

Our Middle School Welcoming Family Barbeque and Parent Information will be held on Thursday, 12 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 education 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 6776 5819. Please be aware that the office may be unattended during the afternoon hours and calls and messages may not be responded to until later in the day.

Diagnostic Measures

This year we will begin the school term by completing a number of diagnostic tests.

Every student in the Middle School will complete the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) General Ability Test (AGAT). AGAT is a test of general intellectual ability, designed to assist teachers in their assessment of students' learning potential and overall aptitude and is a thoroughly researched and nationally normed assessment instrument.

These results when coupled with subject and content specific results will provide us with a far more accurate profile of the student and help us decide on class make-up, plan appropriate curriculum and learning experiences. This is not a terribly fun way to start the term but things will get better.

Catherine Boydell, cboydell@as.edu.au

Junior School

Looking Ahead

Wednesday 28 January

- First day of Term 1, 2009
- Week 1 of timetable
- Sports Training commences
- Learn to swim lessons commence including Intensive Swimming

Thursday 29 January

- Transition Information Evening
- 6.00-7.00pm in the Transition classroom

Friday 30 January

- TAS Junior School BBQ for parents and children
- 6.00-8.00pm McConville Centre area (BBQ and drinks provided at no charge to families)
- GAS (God and Stuff) commences

Monday 2 February

- Week 2 of timetable
- Return JS Contact Booklet information to JS Office
- Learn to Swim classes continue

Tuesday 3 February

- Drama Club commences

Wednesday 4 February

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

Monday 9 February

- Years K, 1 and 4 Parent Information Night in their classrooms

Tuesday 10 February

- Junior School Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 11 February

- No assembly
- Years 2, 3, 5 Parent Information Evening
- 6.00 - 7.00pm in their classrooms

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 2009. To all those continuing students and families we are glad to see you again after a refreshing holiday break.

To our new students and their families we extend a specially 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.

Roles in the JS and Returning Staff

Mrs Forsythe has begun her well earned Long Service Leave and Mrs Christine Wright will be the Acting Head of the Junior School this term. Mrs Wright will be available, in the office, every morning until recess or by appointment this term.

We welcome back to the Junior School Mrs Hilary Harvey who was on Maternity Leave last term. Mrs Harvey will be teaching Year 4 this term during the morning sessions while Mrs Wright attends to administration matters.

We also welcome Mrs Anne Hine who will be teaching Early Birding and some Maths Learning Support lessons in Mrs Forsythe's absence. Many children already know Mrs Hine from her work in the Junior School on several occasions. Mrs Jacqui Whitland will continue on as the Extension and Enrichment teacher this year.

As of next Monday 19 January, the path that leads from the Chapel Street carpark to the Junior School will be closed to all foot traffic and this will continue until the Creative Arts Centre opens (at least). The fence barriers of the Creative Arts Centre will be moved to join the southern end of the swimming pool and will be moved northward to join the completed paving in the Junior School playground now. This will allow the grounds staff to work on the Creative Arts forecourt and the infants lunch seating area. Therefore, all Junior School children and parents will have to walk around the northern end of the gym (between gym and Abbott House) to get to the carpark both morning and afternoon. Tennis lesson children will also need to be guided initially.

I hope the short term pain will result in long term gain, as it has with the fantastic job the grounds staff have done with the rest of our playground. It looks fantastic and the kids should love it.

School Enrolments

This year we commence with 171 children enrolled in the Junior School. There are vacancies in Years 1B, 1W and 3 only. We thank you for your ongoing support and continue to encourage you to come in and see us if you have any concerns.

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 next Monday 2 February.

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, 30 January 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.

Clubs in the Junior School

Book Club

We are delighted to advise you that Mrs Sandra Kaynes, mother of Jack in Year 4, will be running our Book Club this year. Book Club comes out twice a term for Terms 1, 2 and 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.

Chess Club will be run by Ms Jacqui Whitland during recess times. Any interested children will be asked to nominate with Mr Whitland by the end of Week 2.

Drama Club

Ms Jocelyn Ryan will be running the Drama Club this year commencing this Tuesday 3 February 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 4 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 6.00–7.00pm

Parents are warmly invited to attend these evenings in Week 3. They will begin in the 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 9 February Kinder, Years 1 and 4 will be held and on Wednesday 11 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 4, 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 10 February at the TAS Pool commencing at 8.45am. 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 tomorrow, 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 and children 8 years and over are eligible for this.

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 2 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 6 February or email on kbrunsdo@as.edu.au. Lunch will be provided for our wonderful volunteers.

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

Term 1 Calendar

This is available as a download from the TAS website (later today) http://www.as.edu.au/current_happenings/bulletins/weekly_bulletins.php

Changes may occur during the term, that are beyond our control so any additions or alterations will be highlighted in this newsletter.

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 and up to 1pm. If you have an urgent message or a message that needs to get to your child before 3.30pm, it is advisable to contact Reception on 6776 5800.

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.

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. A Canteen List is available as a download from the TAS website (later today) http://www.as.edu.au/current_happenings/bulletins/weekly_bulletins.php

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 and will have to remain in an alternative class. 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 4 February in the Memorial Hall starting at 2.45pm. Year 1 will be hosting our first assembly and we look forward to seeing you there next week.

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 \$3.50 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.

Junior School Sport

Please note that all sports training commences on Wednesday 28 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 Sat 31 January.

Indoor Hockey

If anyone is playing indoor hockey this term and don't have the draw please see Mrs Brunsdon

Auskick

Registration Day is set down for Saturday March 28 at UNE's Bellevue Oval from 12 noon till 1pm

Regular Auskick sessions are held on Saturdays at Bellevue Oval from 12 noon, commencing on May 2 and continuing until August 29.

Try Rugby

Try Rugby is an ARU endorsed program run in conjunction with the Armidale Blues Rugby Club, and aims to involve junior players at all skill levels.

Try Rugby will be held on Friday evenings from 5.30 to 6.30pm at Moran Oval from February 13. Both boys and girls are welcome to attend.