

TAS TALKS # 1

Weekly Newsletter of The Armidale School



Term 1, Week 1 – Wednesday 1 February 2012

House on Duty is Tyrrell – ah 0439 041 606

Headmaster – Murray Guest



Welcome

The 2012 school year is underway and I welcome all in the TAS family back to school. We have an even 100 new students with us this term, including 48 new boarders and I offer a special welcome to each of them as they settle into their new school and, for those boarders, their new school home. We also welcome two new teachers and two new GAP students this year.

Mrs Lisa Pearson joins us as our new Assistant Chaplain and will be working with all Junior School classes and our Junior School chapel services. Mrs Pearson completed her primary teaching qualifications at the University of Newcastle and is currently engaged in a Ministry Traineeship with St Marks Church at UNE.

Mr Chris Pittman joins the PDHPE staff to teach across Middle and Senior School. Mr Pittman also studied at the University of Newcastle and he will be known to a number of students as he worked at TAS in his teaching practicum in 2009.

Our two new GAP students are Simon Watkins from Woodridge College in South Africa and our own Tim Williamson who returns to TAS to support the chaplaincy.

I also offer a welcome back to Keith Brown who returns from long service leave in Term 4 last year.

2011 HSC

I offer a collective congratulations to our 2011 HSC cohort on their very strong results and particular congratulations to our Dux, Tim Williamson who was the highest ranked students in the New England and North West with an ATAR of 99.65. 10% of TAS students received an ATAR above 95 and TAS was ranked higher than any other school in the New England and North West in both English and Mathematics and this is worthy of celebration.

Staff Changes

In addition to the new staff welcomed this term, I draw attention to several other key changes to positions:

- Mr Bill Doherty has taking up the reigns of Middle School boarding as Ian Lloyd moves full time into Junior School and I welcome Bill and his wife Terina into the residential family.
- Mrs Cindy Barnsley formally takes on the role of Middle School Curriculum Co-ordinator. This new position has been created to recognise the particular requirements of Middle School teaching and learning and to mesh with Junior and Senior School curriculum and practice in more deliberate fashion.

Holiday Activities

At our staff meetings prior to the arrival of students we heard reports of a number of school activities through the holiday period. The chaplaincy team joined students for the annual mountain bike camp in the Blue Mountains, the TAS rowing crew was in camp at Taree and competed in a major regatta, our best kayakers had great success in the National and Australian Schools Kayaking Championships in Tasmania and TAS hosted the annual Independent Schools Cricket Festival in damp but not unplayable weather. The School will see more of these activities as presentations are given in assembly over the coming weeks.

I was also interested to hear of Alex Wright's experience at the Latin Summer School at the University of Sydney in January. Alex is studying Latin as part of his HSC studies and the opportunity to join other students in an intensive camp must have been invaluable. I encourage any younger students interested in hearing more about studying Latin to speak to Alex or our Director of Studies, Mrs Wark.

Australia Day Awards

I offer congratulations on two fronts following the announcement of local Australia Day Awards. Callum Morris (Year 10) was announced as the Jnr Sportsman for 2012 in the Walcha awards ceremony as recognition of his achievements in rugby over the past 12 months. I believe that Callum is the first Aboriginal recipient of this award and I am sure that all at TAS will join in congratulating him.

In the Armidale Awards ceremony, the TAS Rugby Carnival was recognised as it received the "Contribution to Sports and Recreation Award for a Group or Organisation". The TAS Rugby Carnival has become one of Armidale's major sporting events and it is very encouraging to see the work of Jason Lincoln and his team recognised in the wider community.

Calendar of Events – 1 February - 4 March

Wednesday 1 February

6.00pm Welcome Back Chapel

Thursday 2 February

6.00–7.30pm Transition Information Night

Friday 3 February

6.00–8.00pm Junior School Welcome Barbecue

Saturday 4 February

Shooting Training weekend at Wollomombi

Sunday 5 February

Shooting Training weekend at Wollomombi
GPS Basketball Round Robin (Sydney)

Monday 6 February

Tuesday 7 February

8.30am Individual student ID photos (formals)
6.30–7.45pm Cancelled – Meet the Music Tutors concert

Wednesday 8 February

12.30pm Liaison Parent's Welcome Lunch
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 9 February

8.00pm HSC Drama Excursion (Sydney)
Boarders Formal Dinner

Friday 10 February

4.00pm HSC Drama Excursion (Sydney)
Houses depart for the coast
Glen Innes Show

Saturday 11 February

HSC Drama Excursion returns
House Coast weekend
Glen Innes Show

Sunday 12 February

House Coast Weekend

Monday 13 February

6.00–7.00pm JS Parent Information Evening
8.00pm MS/SS Swimming Champs – 200m IM event

Tuesday 14 February

JS Swimming Championships

Wednesday 15 February

2.45pm Cybersmart Presentation Yrs 6–10 tbc
6.00–7.00pm JS Parent Information Evening
6.30pm Choral Communion

Thursday 16 February

8.30am Student ID catch up
5.00–7.00pm MS Parent Information evening and
Welcome Barbecue
6.45pm Opening P&F Art Show – Hoskins
7.30pm MS/SS Swimming Champs 200m Freestyle

War Cry competition

Friday 17 February

9.00am–3.30pm MS/SS Swimming Championships
8.30am–7.30pm P&F Art Show in Hoskins
4.00pm Rowers depart for NSW Rowing Regatta
at Penrith
Guyra Show

Saturday 18 February

NRNSW Regatta at Penrith
Guyra Show
9.00am–5.00pm P&F Art Show in Hoskins

Sunday 19 February

Monday 20 February

Tuesday 21 February

Board Meetings

Wednesday 22 February

6.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm P&F Meeting

Thursday 23 February

Founders' Day
PSSA Swimming Carnival
Year 12 Drama 'Chimera' Hoskins

Friday 24 February

Activities Day 1

Saturday 25 February

HSC Drama Excursion returns
House Coast weekend
Glen Innes Show

Sunday 26 February

6.45pm Combined TAS/NEGS service

Monday 27 February

TAS Scholarship and Open Day

Tuesday 28 February

Wednesday 29 February

Thursday 1 March

TAS/NEGS Visual Art Excursion to
Sydney Years 11 and 12

Friday 2 March

TAS/NEGS Visual Art Excursion to
Sydney Years 11 and 12
Armidale Show

Saturday 3 March

TAS/NEGS Visual Art Excursion returns
Armidale Show

Sunday 4 March

Chaplain – The Bucket List According to Jesus - John 1:1-8

You may have read the best selling book *100 Things to Do Before You Die*, or perhaps you have been swept up in, or at least heard of the concept of a bucket list made famous by the movie with that title *The Bucket List*. Maybe you've drawn up a bucket list, maybe you're more modest and you simply have a list for 2012 – what outstanding achievement can I make this year.



As we start a new year this will be the question for many of us – what is on my list of achievements? So this term I want us to consider this concept. But rather than working out those 'one-off' moments, that every other moment will be sacrificed or wished away for; such as running with the bulls in Spain; or climbing Everest; or the World Cow Chip Throwing Championship or Bivouac. We will be trying to work out what Jesus would have on our lists, how our whole lives should be spent.

Call me Captain Obvious, but, the fundamental thing Jesus is going to be asking people to do, isn't to behave better or to try harder or to be nicer, its not even to go bungee jumping, but, that all people might believe. The thing he wants you to do is to trust him – to believe. It may feel as unnatural or as scary as bungee jumping. However, it is as simple as weighing up whether He is trust worthy – just like you would if you were to go jumping off a bridge with an elastic band attached to you.

John says in his account of what Jesus did and said “These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

The author of *100 Things to Do Before You Die*, Dave Freeman, after promoting a life of dangerous and exciting travel experiences, after putting his life on the line in so many thrill-seeking ways, only made it half way through his own list before he was accidentally killed. Not by a rampaging bull or snapped bungee cord. Sadly, Dave died when he slipped over and hit his head in the bathroom. Tragic.

Jesus offers something beyond this life, which impacts every corner of this life, not simply the “Mountain Top Experiences” – He offers life now and forever through belief.

P&F Association - President: Sandra Kaynes

web: <http://www.as.edu.au/community/PandF/php> email: pandf@as.edu.au

Welcome

A special welcome to all parents new to TAS in 2012. We welcome you as new members of The Armidale School Parents and Friends Association. We hope all new and continuing parents can help out and participate in P&F events associated with the School where time and interest allows.

Liaison Parents

Any parent wishing to serve as a Liaison Parent is urged to contact the P&F Executive – email p&f@as.edu.au

A luncheon will be held in the second week of school on the Wednesday 8 February for all Liaison Parents so they can get to know each other and discuss their role and plans for the year.

Swimming Carnivals

The first event for the year is the Junior School Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 14 March followed by the Middle/Senior Swimming Championships on Friday 17 March. At both these events cake stalls will be supplied and manned by parents.

P&F Meeting

The P&F meets only once a term. Our first meeting for the year will be on Wednesday 22 February at 7.00pm in the Lower Maxwell Room. See you there.

Student Services - Meg Sadler

Eligibility for Private Vehicle Conveyance Subsidy

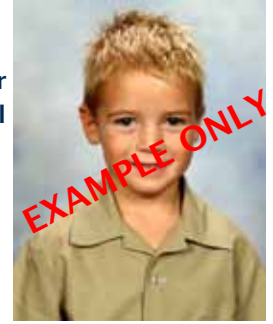
Parents who are driving their child over 1.6 kms to the nearest bus stop/transport pickup point, should enquire about applying for this subsidy.

Please contact Meg Sadler 02 6776 5805 for more information.

General Notices

Reminder – ID photos for 2012 – Orders

The first photographs scheduled in the school year are individual IDs, Tuesday 7 February, so parents and Housemasters are asked to please ensure all students attend school in their formal uniform, including blazers for Years 5 –12. This year, students from Year 6 – 12 will receive an ID card at a cost of \$4.50 (added to school accounts).



If you have not received an order form and would like to place an order, colour brochures and order forms can be obtained from TAS Reception. Payment and product options are displayed on the order form. Payment options include cash (handed to photographers on the day) and credit card. These products will no longer be charged to the school account.

Envelopes containing cash may be handed to Boarding Housemasters or TAS Reception for safe keeping until 7 February.

Family photos are available as usual, with the same cash or credit card payment options.

Family photos are generally scheduled after all the individual photos have been taken.

Please contact Meg Sadler at school, with details of your order, so she can coordinate these on the day. email msadler@as.edu.au

There is a follow-up session in the morning of Thursday 17 February for absentees. Any orders placed after this date are subject to a \$20 'search fee' so please ensure your orders are lodged and paid for by 17 February.

Contacts for MSP Photography: 5/161 Rusden Street Armidale NSW 2350/02 6788 0122/newengland@msp.com.au

Mathematics and English/Essay Subjects Tutoring and Homework Centre

This is a specialist centre operating four afternoons a week during term time (starting Week 2) to provide targeted assistance in Mathematics, English and essay based subjects. The centre has trained teaching staff who can provide help with basic skills, homework, assignments and extension opportunities for students with an interest in improving their skill base.

Students attending the Centre receive assistance with their homework and the current topic, novel or essay that their class is studying. Some may wish to work ahead of their class or do extension questions on that topic. Others will want to practise skills from previous topics or study for exams.

The Centre has extensive banks of graded skills sheets, past exams, NAPLAN papers and has purchased licences for software and online programs such as Mathletics and Excel revision materials.

Students can choose from four sessions each week, Monday through to Thursday. The Centre is only open in term time and sessions start in Week 2 of each term. They run through to the holidays depending on demand in the last week of term. Students can mix and match and many choose to do a session of Maths and another of English each week.

There are a maximum of 6 students per staff member and bookings are essential. Parents may book for a term at a cost of \$250 per term or individual sessions (if room is available) for \$20 per 1.5 hour session. Booking one session per week for a term costs \$120 or two sessions a week for \$180.

Afternoon tea is provided at each session.

Enquiries and bookings for Term 4 can be made by contacting Gaye Piper gpiper1@as.edu.au or the TAS Reception 6776 5800.

Be Cybersmart

All of us worry about our experience when using social networks and the internet in general.

To augment our practice in class and advisor groups, TAS has organised for a government sponsored Cybersmart group (the Australian Communications and Media Authority) to visit TAS on **Wednesday, 15 February**.

Years 9 & 10 will be addressed specifically by this group in the afternoon

Staff and parents are urged to attend a one and a half hour presentation designed for both groups starting at 5.00pm sharp in the Hoskins Centre. Any parent is able to come along to this session will find it extremely worthwhile – highly recommended.

Recording of Student Absence and Student Leave Regulations

As mentioned in the Headmaster's Newsletter at the end of last year, all NSW schools are now required to follow a new approval and recording process for granting exemption certificates (leave of absence) from school. The NSW Minister for Education has delegated the power to grant or cancel exemption certificates to non-government school principals within strict guidelines. It allows principals to provide an exemption certificate for students to be exempt under certain conditions from attending school for up to 50 days in a year or an exemption to leave school following the completion of Year 10 to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship.

The new rules state that principals may grant full day attendance exemptions (leave) under the following circumstances:

- exceptional domestic circumstances, including but not limited to participation in family holidays during school term subject to being satisfied that this is in the best educational interests of the child
- other exceptional circumstances such as health of the student where sick leave or alternative enrolment is not appropriate
- the child being prevented from attending school because of a direction under section 42D of the Public Health Act 1991
- employment in the entertainment industry or participation in elite sporting events for short periods of time ie for one or two days, and at short notice.

These changes represent considerably more stringent oversight of student leave from school and parents should note the new process for approval of leave.

Application forms for exemption from attendance will be available on the school website by the end of this week. In the interim, please contact the Deputy Headmaster to facilitate this. Note: leave cannot be taken until a certificate for exemption from Attendance at School is received.

Grant Harris, Deputy Headmaster

Musical Notes – Nik Glass

2012 Ensemble Rehearsal schedule

Current rehearsal times for 2012 are listed below. Please note all rehearsals will commence next week (week 2), with the exception of Chapel Choir which will commence this week. It is expected that students who took part in ensembles last year will continue this year. If a student is not continuing in an ensemble please notify nglass@as.edu.au

Ensemble	Day	Time	Venue
TAS Junior Band	Monday	7:30 – 8:30am	Music Centre
TAS Senior Rock Band	Monday	1:20 – 2:00pm	Music Centre
TAS Singers	Tuesday	7:40 – 8:40am	Music Centre
Guitar Ensemble	Tuesday	Lunchtime	Music Centre
London Tour Choir	Tuesday	5:00–6:30pm	NEGS Music Centre
TAS Stage Band (previously known as TAS Jazz Band)	Wednesday	7:45 – 8:45am	Music Centre
Junior Vocal Ensemble	Wednesday	7:45 – 8:45am (note earlier start time)	Music Centre
Senior Jazz Combo	Wednesday	5.00 – 6.00pm	Music Centre
K-2 Choir	Thursday	Period 4	Music Centre
3- 5 Choir	Thursday	Period 5	Music Centre
TAS Band	Thursday	7:30 – 8:30am	Music Centre
TAS Strings	Friday	7:40 – 8:40am	Music Centre
London Tour Choir	Friday	7:30–8:30am	NEGS Music Centre
TAS Junior Rock Band	Friday	1:20 – 2:00pm	Music Centre
Chapel Choir	Friday	3.45 – 5pm	Chapel

Instrumental Tuition

Please note tuition will officially recommence next week (week 2). Some lessons may begin this week in which case your child's tutor will have notified you of an earlier start in advance. Please note students who were enrolled into lessons Term 4 2011 will be automatically rolled over into tuition this year unless prior notice was given regarding a pending withdrawal. If you have not yet provided notice of a withdrawal please email sbroadbe@as.edu.au as soon as possible.

Instrument hire

The TAS Music Department currently has instruments to hire including saxophones, trumpets, violins (all sizes), cellos, clarinets, flutes, French horns and a bassoon. If you would like to hire an instrument from us please email sbroadbe@as.edu.au Our current hire fee is \$55 per term – which is great value for money.

Bus to NECOM

TAS will provide a bus to transport students up to NECOM at 3:30pm on a Tuesday afternoon from week 2 onwards. This will assist student to arrive on time to their respective rehearsals. The bus will pick students up from the turning circle outside the Music Centre (near Junior School).

What's Hot at Hoskins – Emma Buzo - Centre Manager

NEW Co-curricular Drama Program starting in Week 2 – hurry!

The ability to speak confidently in public is one of the most important and helpful skills a young person will need when they leave school. TAS has established a new co-curricular program where students from Years 3–11 can study a range of different subjects following world-renowned Trinity Guildhall syllabus including Communication Skills, Performance Arts and Music Theatre. Whether a student is an aspiring performer or simply wants to improve their public speaking, I highly recommend enrolling in this program to develop literacy, voice, communication and presentation skills. All students will undertake an annual exam and put their skills into practice at a public event. Classes start next week with expert tutors.

Download a form on the Hoskins website: <http://hoskins.as.edu.au>

Year 12 Production – 'Chimera'

This year's HSC Drama students are a bright and creative bunch and they are hard at work preparing for 'Chimera', a surreal and evocative performance inspired by French theatre practitioner Jacques Lecoq. This is a public event and is likely to be quite different to anything we've seen at Hoskins. Tickets for the show on Thursday 23 February 7pm can be booked at www.trybooking.com/ZXK

Latest news on 'Joseph' – parent helpers needed

Tickets for 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' are on sale at: www.trybooking.com/YMM. Rehearsals are hotting up this term as it all comes together for the big season on March 22–24. We are looking for parent helpers to assist with costumes, set and props. The production team would greatly appreciate any assistance from parents who can spare a few hours to paint a wall or sew a few sequins on. Please contact Production Manager Sarah Watson, email: swatson@as.edu.au if you can assist.



Join the brand NEW

Co-Curricular Drama

Program for Yrs 3 to 11 at TAS

The Armidale School

Lead by a team of passionate and enthusiastic professionals following the internationally recognised Trinity Guildhall Speech & Drama Syllabus

Subjects Include:
Speech and Drama
Individual Acting Skills
Group Performance
Communication Skills
Musical Theatre
Performance Arts

ENROL NOW
For Term 1
2012

For more information & enrolment forms
<http://hoskins.as.edu.au>

Technology and Trade Training Centre



Autos is looking for Vehicles to Service

If you have any vehicles that require servicing (and are out of warranty) we can service them.
We are also able to do pink slips for cars, trailers, motor bikes, horse floats etc
Give Richard Lee a call on 0421 238 481 and see what they can do for you.

Sporting News – Sportsmaster: Jason Lincoln



http://www.as.edu.au/current_happenings/activities/sport/current_sport.php

Welcome back to 21012 after what has been a restful yet I am sure eventful time for all.

Congratulations

To our Kayakers on their outstanding achievements at the Nationals in Tasmania.

To our Cricketers on the admirable job they did in hosting the Cricket Festival in January

To our Rowers who competed in their first regattas in Sydney and attended a camp in Taree.

Swimming Carnival

The Swimming Carnivals will be held in week 3 of this term and we look forward to witnessing the efforts of all our students in the events leading up to and during the carnival including the War Cry Competition on Thursday 16 February at 7.30pm.

For all information regarding sport this year please go to the TAS website as most MIC's have updated their pages. Please go to the TAS website Sport page also to peruse updated training locations and coaching allocations.

I wish you all a healthy, active and enjoyable 2012 and I look forward to witnessing the efforts of all of our students in their sporting endeavours this year.

New England Junior Rugby Trials

The trials for the NEJRU Representative teams for 2012 will be held:

O'Connor Catholic College, Kirkwood St Armidale

Saturday 4th February 2012

10.00 am - 11.30 am

This is a great opportunity for players to represent the New England zone at the NSW Country Championships.



Fitness Boxing at TAS

(This is not a full contact class)

Join an 8 week dynamic course

Learn boxing skills such as:

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

Day: Thursdays
Time: 5:15pm (60 minute class)
Location: Meet in foyer, TAS Sports Centre
Start date: Thursday 9 February (week 2)
Cost: \$7.00 session
\$6.00 session (TAS staff & students)

No experience necessary

Bookings Essential. Contact Chris Doherty on
67711158 or 0414 984 378

(This class is not available to junior school students)

Boarders will need to organise a take-away dinner
from the kitchen.



General Circuit Classes

These classes are an excellent way to build strength as well as endurance. Come and work out in the recently refurbished TAS weights room

Cost of classes is \$7.00 each
(\$6.00 for current TAS staff & students)

Classes go for one hour and run at the following times:

Monday: 6:15pm
Tuesday: 5:15pm
Thursday: 6:30pm
Saturday: 4:15pm

For more information contact Chris Doherty on 6771 1158 or 0414 984 378 or go to www.cdpt.net.au/classes



Tennis

There will be a number of opportunities available for students who play Tennis as a sport at TAS to local tournaments this term. The first of these will be on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th February 2012.

On the Saturday, a training day will be held at Inverell with experienced coaches in conjunction with Tennis NSW.

This would be a most worthwhile day to attend for a player of any ability.

On Sunday, Inverell will also be hosting a tournament, which students are encouraged to attend. There is a charge for these days and arrangements are being made for travel etc. If your son is interested in attending either of these days, please email me as soon as possible at lpolson@as.edu.au.

For training times and competition times, please head to the Tennis website.

<http://teams.as.edu.au/groups/tennis/>

From the Head of Middle School

A warm welcome to all new and returning students and their families as we begin an exciting new school year.

We are very pleased to welcome Mr Mark Harrison, Mr Bill Doherty and Mr Chris Spencer to our Middle School teaching team. (Mr Harrison and Mr Spencer will retain some of their senior school classes. We look forward to their contribution to our Middle School both in and out of the classroom.



Homeroom teachers for this year are: Year 6 – Mr Tim Hadfield and Mr Neil Druce; Year 7 – Ms Cindy Barnsley, Mr Bill Doherty and Mr Chris Spencer and Year 8 – Ms Fiona Taber, Mr Mark Harrison and Mr Andrew O’Connell.

Mrs Regina Pollard will be responsible for Year 6 to 8 Learning Support and the day to day operation of the Middle School office is in the capable hands of Mrs Alison Evans, Middle School Administrative Assistant. My teaching responsibilities will include Year 7 Philosophy and Learning Support.

Homeroom Allocations

In order to provide an appropriate educational programme, 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.

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 makeup, plan appropriate curriculum and learning experiences.

Ms Catherine Boydell – Learning Support and Extension and Enrichment Coordinator

Middle School Gift

We would like to thank last year’s Year 8 class for their gift of a fantastic indoor clock that will be located in the foyer of the Middle School. This gift will be well utilised by the boys and visitors to the School.

Contacting the Middle School

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

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 Middle School answering machine will enable staff to return your call at a more suitable time.

Uniforms

We request that all uniforms, including hats and shoes, need to be clearly and correctly labelled with your son’s name.

Family BBQ and Parent Information Evening

Our Middle School Welcoming Family Barbeque and Parent Information will be held on Thursday, 16 February, which is the day prior to the swimming carnival.

The Information Session will begin at 5:00pm in the Middle School and will be followed by the barbeque at McConville Centre.

At 6.45pm everyone is invited to the official opening of the TAS P&F Art Show in the Hoskins Centre.

Then at 7:30pm families are invited to attend the War Cries Competition at the Sports Centre.

Junior School – Head of Junior School: Ian Lloyd



Looking Ahead

Thursday 2 February	Transition Information Night 6–7.30pm in the Transition classroom
Friday 3 February	Welcome BBQ 6–8pm – McConville Centre with Jumping Castle
Wednesday 8 February	Year 4 Assembly
Monday 13 February	Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 14 February	Junior School Swimming Championships
Wednesday 15 February	Parent Information Evening

From the Head of Junior School

So how do you get an elephant into the fridge? Clearly, you open the door, remove the giraffe, put the elephant in and close the door again.

Those parents able to be at our first assembly would have heard that the focus this year in Junior School will be our classrooms and what occurs within them. Whilst maintaining and improving the stimulating and happy atmospheres we currently strive for, we will be keeping it simple. Doing the little things well is important to us and sometimes, it does not need to get complicated. Please stay in touch with us, get involved and let's enjoy the ride together. Welcome to Junior School 2012, and on behalf of all our staff, we hope you have a fantastic year.

Communication

This year we will be using email more regularly, as well as our school and classroom websites, while TAS Talks will still remain as the key source of most information. If you did not receive an email from me recently outlining some significant changes to our excursions and end of year structure please contact either Fiona or myself.

These changes are outlined below.

Daily Routine

This year, the Junior School timetable falls into line with both Middle and Senior Schools affording us many advantages. The timings are:

8.45 am	Period 1
9.30 am	Period 2
10.15 am	Recess 1 (with class)
10.35 am	Period 3
11.20 am	Recess 2 (playground)
11.40 am	Period 4
12.25 pm	Period 5
1.00 pm	Lunch (15 mins sitting)
1.50 pm	Lunch Lines
2.00 pm	Period 6
2.45 pm	Period 7
3.30 pm	Classes conclude

Assemblies

These will be held in the Hoskins Centre from 2.45pm each Wednesday, beginning in week 2. It is an opportunity for us to come together as a school, with our parents, celebrate outstanding achievements, showcase some of the work undertaken in our classes and have the opportunity to present to an audience. We encourage you to come along and be entertained.

Excursion Week

Having visited and reviewed the structure of the excursions last year, the School proposes that all major, overnight excursions will be focussed during the School Excursion week. Each year, this week is in Term 2 week 2, and will apply to years 3 to 5 only. Kindergarten to year 2 will no longer have overnight excursions, but instead, arrange day trips throughout the year which relate more closely to the curriculum for their particular stage of learning. Year 3 and 4 will combine for the purpose of supervision and focus on more local centres, and year 5 will, where possible, use the Sport and Recreation Centre at Myuna Bay as a stepping stone towards our outdoor education program in preparation for Middle and Senior School. The progression and the length of these excursions will be designed to increase the educational relevance for, and the growing independence of, all the students. I feel this has many advantages: creating more age appropriate and educational activities earlier in the year for students to familiarise themselves with friends and their teachers; utilise local resources and facilities, reduce costs and importantly, maximize the class time for academic pursuits at the end of the year.

Activities Week & Speech Day

You may have noticed that the date for the Junior School Speech Day is yet to be confirmed. Given that the school excursions might be moved forward, we propose moving the Junior School Speech Day to the evening before TAS Senior School Speech Day. Having checked to ensure there is no clash with other schools, this date would be Wednesday December 5 2012, and would not only allow for a more meaningful completion to the school year but also ensure adequate preparation time for the end of year celebrations and functions without losing as much class time. On all these matters we would appreciate your feedback.

Welcome BBQ

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. With the risk of poor weather, we will be having the BBQ in the Junior School under the covered area on Friday, 3 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.

Junior School Contact Booklet

All children were given a form yesterday or 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. Family information will only be included in this booklet upon return of the letter 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 coming Friday, 3 February.

Happy Birthday

Many children celebrated their birthday during the holidays and we trust you all had a wonderful day. We also wish all children celebrating their birthday this week, a very Happy Birthday.

Transition Information Evening

This Thursday, 2 February from 6–7.30pm, Mrs Tania Ball and Mrs Lucy Adams will be meeting with Transition parents in the Transition classroom to outline school procedures and expectations to all our new families so that any questions can be answered early in term. It is also a wonderful opportunity to meet the parents of the other children in your child's class – an event not to miss! We look forward to seeing all Transition parents attending.

Formal Uniform – Tuesday 7 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 with money is returned to the Junior School Office by that day. Please contact main School Reception if you did not receive your photo form in the mail earlier this year.

Parent Information Evenings 6–7pm

Parents are warmly invited to attend these evenings in Week 3, Monday 14 and Wednesday 16 February. They will begin in the undercover area 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.

Contacting the Junior School Phone 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. A message left on the Junior School answering machine will enable staff to return your call at a suitable time.

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. Items returned to the school are often left at the main TAS Reception, please do not forget to check there for any items. 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.

Pottery Classes with Rick Hatch

For: students from 5 to 11 years

When: Monday afternoons from 4.00-5.00pm
for 6 weeks beginning 13 February

Where: ground floor art room in the Hoskins Centre

For: 12 years +

When: Wednesday evenings 6.00-8.00pm

For 6 weeks beginning 15 February

Cost \$135 including materials and firing

In our clay work we learn first class technical skills while having lots of fun. We develop confidence in our ability to imagine something and then make it.

After the work is complete by firing in the kiln we have our exhibition, make icecream together and take our work home.

Ring Rick Hatch on 6772 5371 for information and booking.



Junior School Sport - Kirsty Brunson, Co-ordinator

Please note that all sports training commences in Week 2 on Tuesday 7 February, from 3.45pm to 4.45pm. The children are to be picked up from the turning circle by 5pm or will be returned to the homework centre to be supervised until collected.

Indoor hockey games commence this week on Friday 3 February.

The touch competition commences on Thursday 9 February.

The basketball miniball competition should commence on Monday 13 February and will be confirmed by coaches next week.

Cricket games will commence on Saturday 11 February. See the draw for the first games.

For the new children who are keen to become involved in summer sport, please see Mrs Kirsty Brunson or email her on kbrunsdo@as.edu.au 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.

Sports Training

Please note that sports' training is always on regardless of weather conditions for both summer and winter sports. Should the weather be inclement, or scheduled games cancelled, the coaches will still be using this time to coach the children, and the children's attendance remains compulsory.

No JS Sport on Tuesday 14 February.

Sport is cancelled on Tuesday 14th February, which follows our Junior School swimming carnival.

JS Swimming Carnival – Tuesday 14 February

Please note that carnival nominations for races will be sent home this week – please read the back of the sheet and ensure the age to be entered on the sheet is the age your child will be on 31/12/12. Any Kindergarten children, who wish to enter the 25m freestyle may use a kickboard if needed.



**PLC ARMIDALE P&F
ASSOCIATION
ARE EXCITED TO PRESENT OUR
OUTDOOR CINEMA EVENING**

Date: Saturday 11th February, 2012
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: PLC Main Oval

Ticket Prices

Adult: \$10

Child/Student: \$5

Tickets on sale at Junior School
reception or main school reception

Food & Drink: will be available in the form of a sausage sizzle and the canteen will be selling cold drinks, toy poles, popcorn and homemade treats. If you prefer, please feel free to bring along your own picnic. This is a BYO event so please feel free to bring along your own refreshments. Hot drinks will be available from Scott's Coffee Cart.

Stalls: There will be face painting at \$4 per child and a Lob-A-Choc game for \$1 per go. These will be held prior to the commencement of the movie.

Movie: Mamma Mia (PG) 104 mins

Movie Time: the movie will commence at 8pm

Seating: bring along your own chairs or blanket to sit on – if you bring chairs please sit towards the back of the area to avoid blocking the view of those sitting on blankets.

Inclement Weather: in case of wet or windy weather the outdoor cinema will be held in the DECC

This event is sponsored by





Armidale to South West Rocks on a pushie ... ARE YOU IN?

National Buildplan Group have been involved with Tour de Cure for three years and have contributed over \$50k in this time. It is our passion for the cause that inspired us to join the Tour de Cure community.

This inspiration has been enhanced as our relationship with **Gary Bertwistle** and **Geoff Coombes** from Tour de Cure has grown. It was with their support that *Tour de Rocks* was born.

Tour de Rocks is a community ride from Armidale to South West Rocks and will be made up of riders and support crew from Buildplan and the local Armidale community. By building a good team, focused on a worthy purpose, we will inspire community involvement through sponsorship and local fundraising activities.

Our vision for Tour de Rocks 2012 is to get up to 100 riders and support crew from Armidale to the Rocks, to raise funds for cancer research and spread the vision of Tour de Cure, finding a cure for cancer. Our aim this year is to raise \$100,000 to go towards finding a cure for cancer.

Tour de Rocks 2012 an event of heart, soul, a little bit of guts, as well as a whole lot of fun - one that is not to be missed!

Gary Bertwistle



TOUR de Rocks 2012
19th - 21st April

Sponsored by
Buildplan
building on true relationships

Join Gary Bertwistle for a fun and inspirational night and hear him speak on "The 10 Steps" and understand what it means to dance with the elephants.

"THIS FRIDAY"

**Drinks are on us at the
Tour de Rocks Information Night**

TAS Hoskins Centre

Friday, 3rd February 2012

5.15pm for drinks and canapes, 6.00pm start

RSVP to Justine Biddle | 6770 1110 | justine.biddle@buildplan.com.au

by Wednesday, 1st February 2012

For more information on the ride contact Justine

building better lives and community



