



TAS
THE ARMIDALE
SCHOOL

EXPLORE
EXPERIENCE
EXCEL

TAS TALKS

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL

Wednesday 29 November, 2017 Term 4 Week 8

HEADMASTER, MURRAY GUEST

I write this week from Nymboida at the headquarters of our cadet operations amidst plenty of action right in the middle of our Activities Week. Some showers are forecast, but after a challenging bivouac a few weeks ago the weather has been relatively kind thus far, both here and on the coast where I have seen our surf lifesavers in action at Sawtell beach. This is a week that some look forward to with great excitement and others with trepidation. I would argue that it is equally important for both. Those with a passion for the outdoors or a love of the structures and responsibility of leadership will be in their element and having the chance to shine this week may be something they have been waiting for. Others will be tested as they find themselves in an environment and engaged in activities that they would not have chosen and this is a good thing too.

The phrase 'out of your comfort zone' is used so often these days that it has become cliché, but that makes it no less important. Whether it is in the classroom, on the stage, during sports or in the bush, it is the struggle that defines us, not the comfortable. I have yet to hear departing Year 12 students reminisce about the times they sat back and enjoyed themselves. Cadets, 'surf-life' and 'rural fire' feature often though, with the universal agreement over generations of Year 12s that the Activities program was a good thing for them, even for those who admit they did not like it at the time, and all say that it should remain an expectation for every TAS student. Those experiences that will become memories to reminisce about, and perhaps enhance, into the future are being forged this week and it is a great privilege to see that in action.



TAS Mountain Biking

Just before heading into the bush, our mountain bikers took their place amongst the best in the state as they competed at the NSW Cross Country Mountain Biking Championships at UNE. Having such an elite event on our doorstep is a great privilege and I was very pleased that TAS was so well represented from the U13 event through to the U19 men's championship. Jo Benham, our MTB coordinator and an elite mountain biker herself, has reported on the strong performances of our riders in this edition of TAS Talks and I congratulate her and all who were involved. Mountain biking continues to grow in size and prestige at TAS and the opportunity last weekend will only enhance that.

Honey Production at TAS

For something different to add to the Christmas stocking this year, I recommend the honey now on sale at Reception as a tasty talking point. It is guaranteed 100% TAS honey, coming from TAS bees and local flowering white clover and white gum pollen and produced with the loving care of our Year 9/10 Honey Production elective class during Term 4. As their teacher, Mike Ball, writes; "The students go through all aspects of managing bees and producing honey from making hive components, using apiary tools to open and inspect hives, identifying the different castes of bees and their lifecycle and roles, disease control, catching swarms and finally harvest and extraction of honey." The relatively wet spring has contributed to a good harvest this year with almost 100kgs produced. It is fresh and ready to go!

Tri-Schools Debating for Middle School.

While Year 5 were honing their debating skills for an audience of their classmates and parents this week, Middle School went into competition with NEGS and PLC for the final round of the 2017 Tri-Schools debating and our debating coordinator Tim Hughes has reported on the results and some of the clever lines of argument from each of our three teams (particularly pleasing for our staff was the Year 6 success in arguing against the proposition 'that we learn more from our computers than our teachers'). There is no doubt that debating is growing in both quality and interest at TAS and this is a good thing. The ability to communicate in a way that influences others is such an important life skill and seeing it taught purposefully in this way is very pleasing.

Seussical The Musical

I offer best wishes to all in the cast and crew of *Seussical* which will be presented in three shows from Thursday to Saturday this week. This is the Junior School major production for 2017 and will showcase some wonderful talent. The show is great fun and will bring back memories to all who shared the joy of Dr Seuss as a child or with their children. Tickets are advertised later in this edition of TAS Talks and I am looking forward to it very much.

Murray Guest



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week 8

Thursday 30 November	Seussical Jr Matinee (1.30pm)
Friday 1 December	Seussical Jr (6pm)
Saturday 2 December	Seussical Jr (6pm)

Week 9

Monday 4 December	MS/SS Carol Service Junior School Carol Service (2pm)
Tuesday 5 December	Cash Cup (1.30pm)
Wednesday 6 December	MS Family Luncheon & Final Assembly JS Speech Day
Thursday 7 December	Speech Day (9.30am) Classes Conclude

Student Services

Reminder to students who are 16 years and over or turning 16 during the summer vacation. Senior Student Concession Cards - available from the Travel Office - are necessary for students to avoid paying full fare on public transport. If you have not yet collected your concession card, then please email Mrs Sadler on msadler@as.edu.au to request issue prior to departure for holidays.

Receptionist / Admin Assistant Middle School

The Armidale School is seeking a suitably qualified and enthusiastic person to provide reception and administrative support to the Middle School.

This position is a permanent part-time, term time only role from 8.30-3.30 weekdays to commence in Term 1, 2018.

TAS is the only regionally based co- educational GPS school in NSW and prides itself on the high quality of its academic, boarding and co-curricular programs.

Job description and application form are available at www.as.edu.au

Applications close Monday 4 December, 2017.

Applicants should be supportive of the Christian ethos of the school.



TAS THE ARMIDALE
SCHOOL

www.as.edu.au



TAS
THE ARMIDALE
SCHOOL

The Headmaster, Mr Murray Guest requests the pleasure of your company at

Speech Day 2017

Thursday 7 December at 9.30am

TAS Sports Centre

Guest of Honour

Dr Tammie Matson

Zoologist and wildlife conservationist



P&F PRESIDENT, MRS RACHAEL NICOLL

AND THE PIG TROPHY GOES TO....

Prior to, and during, TAS@Dusk all the Sports Houses were tasked with fundraising money to aid in bringing the Pig Races to TAS@Dusk. It was one of the first jobs the new 2018 Year 12 House Captains were given. And they did an amazing job! Exceptional creativity was shown in coming up with ideas for raising money - from a silent auction for a James White painting; to a staff morning tea; to offering to detail cars. The Houses, between raising money and selling pig race tickets on the day, collected almost \$10,000 gross which was absolutely staggering!!

I must extend my, and the rest of the P&F's, heartfelt appreciation for the work all the students put in and the gusto with which they took on the challenge. What an incredible result.

But onto the important part... who won??? Well... coming in 3rd was Croft, 2nd and only a couple of hundred dollars behind the winners was Ross and... drum roll please... **the winners of the Pig Trophy (and Mars Bars) was Abbott with a staggering amount of almost \$2700.**



WE NEED YOU!!!! NEW LIAISON PARENTS WANTED

Liaison Parents have an important role in being the 'first port of call' for people wanting to know what is going on in their year and at school. The P&F could not operate without them. So that we can hit the ground running next year and make sure all new families in 2018 feel the love and support right from day one, we would love to have all our Year Group LPs for 2018 sorted before the end of this term.

Being an LP is not an arduous job – primarily it is to be a conduit for P&F matters to parents and also to create a sense of community within your group, particularly when new families start at TAS. Some arranging of Year group helpers for sports day cake stalls is also required as is finding someone (not necessarily yourself) to organise your Year group stall at TAS@Dusk.

If you are interested in becoming a Year Group Liaison Parent for 2018 or would like to know more about the role please either contact myself (nicollfamily1@gmail.com) or your current Liaison Parent. You don't need to be an 'old hand' to take it on – you just need to be able to befriend your Year group.

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

We still have a few of our famous Christmas Puddings left. These are \$25 each. Please contact Reception or go to the 'Whats On' tab on the TAS Website to order them online. At this stage it is highly likely we won't have any for sale on Speech Day so get in quick!!

Mrs Rachael Nicoll



ACADEMIC

Debating year ends on a high

It was a clean sweep for TAS at the third and final round of this year's Middle School Tri-Schools' Shield competition on 22 November at NEGS, who were admirable opponents and wonderful hosts.

The Year 6 team of Lachlan Hunt, Jasper O'Neil, Louis Ross and Wiley Wright disabled the Affirmative's case 'that we learn more from computers than from our teachers', using as a team line the analogy that 'a house is made by a builder, not a tool box'. Apart from their many points and a growing understanding of the power of rebuttal, the use of eye contact, tonal range and animation set TAS apart in an engaging debate.

Hugo Catterall, Frank Perrottet, Will Jubb and Ethan Bellman of Year 7 also had the Negative case against their hosts, who were affirming 'That social media does more harm than good'. With Facebook now effectively not just the biggest social media platform in the world but the largest media organisation generally, there was ample opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of the media more broadly, and the TAS team were thrilled to be declared the winners.

In the Year 8 debate, Kade Stanley, Hudson McAllister, Hannah Neilson and Ethan Irvine were the Affirmative arguing 'That a strong dictatorship is better than a weak democracy'. A well-developed definition that took away the notions of 'corrupt/ evil versus fair/ good' and instead looked at concepts including consent and benevolence, built a strong scaffolding for their case. Their model focussed equally on the pitfalls of weak democracies as much as the attributes of benign dictatorships, and agreeing with the Negative that corrupt dictatorships are harmful to society, made it harder for their opponents to gain ground and move beyond citing examples of specific evil leaders. The TAS team's well-deserved win was an acknowledgement of their sophisticated argument.

And so ends another year of competition for the Tri-Schools' Shield, which was retained by PLC with TAS a credible second. Well done to all students who have been part of the competition this year, and thanks also to Mrs Kate Clynch (PLC) and Mr Timothy Foregard (NEGS) who share the enthusiasm.

Mr Tim Hughes Debating Coordinator



Successful debaters at the Tri-Schools' Shield competition: (standing) Kade Stanley, Hugo Catterall, Hannah Neilson, Ethan Bellman, Hudson McAllister, Frank Perrottet, Ethan Irvine, Will Jubb, (front) Lachlan Hunt, Jasper O'Neil, Louis Ross, Wiley Wright.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Onwards and upwards

New boarding house the latest project in \$28 million campus development over past decade

On the eve of the completion of the new boarding house for girls, which is still on schedule to open for the start of Term 1 2018, we thought we should reflect on just how far the TAS campus has come in the past 10 years. Over \$28 million has been spent since 2007 on developing our beautiful campus. This has included refurbishing academic buildings, building the creative arts and trade training centres, new change rooms, completely replacing every bathroom, and extending two boys' boarding houses. Frontfield was laser-levelled to create Adamsfield; Memorial Hall has been restored; the gymnasium extended with new classrooms and an expanded fitness room; solar panels and pool covers have increased our energy efficiency, and Year 12 have been given a room of their own.

It is easy to forget how much has happened as we wander around the grounds, but it is a perfect time to be grateful to all those who make this possible by sheer hard work and determination.

Have a look at the photos below and - if you have been here long enough - you will see how much change has taken place.

There is lots of exciting change to look forward to in the coming year and we welcome all to the opening of the new boarding house which will coincide with War Cries next year when we have lots of parents here for the evening. The next project to look forward to is the refurbishment of the Library ... coming your way in 2018. This will be funded in a large part by the Foundation Building Trust - which is primarily made up of the voluntary contributions that you, our parents, so generously give!

Ms Cressida Mort
Director of Development



The Deakin Wing, White House, under construction



Abbott House being extended to improve residential life



Over the past decade every single bathroom at TAS has been replaced at a cost of almost \$750,000



Refitting the top of Cash Building



Creating the laser-levelled Adamsfield



Hoskins Centre theatre under construction



Pride of workmanship in the Backfield rugby changerooms



The former YCW being transformed into the Trades Training Centre



Eastern extensions to the gymnasium



More space for Junior School



Creating the new Science lab



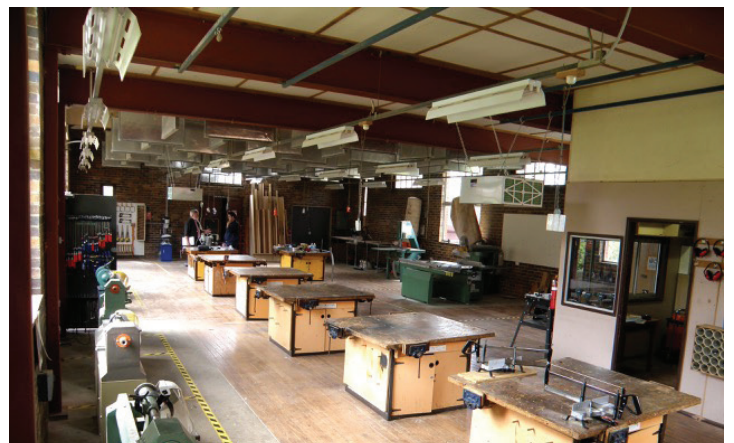
Creating new girls' changeooms in the eastern side of the gym



Top Moyes becomes senior girls' boarding



The production studio takes shape in the basement of the Hoskins Centre



The old technology room before being transformed into the Year 12 Common Room and Study Centre

LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND ADVENTURE

Rangers

Year 7 Rangers have safely arrived at Cooby Dam, Toowoomba for their activities week, and what a beautiful place it is! After a long drive up on Monday, students set their tents up overlooking the dam, then got stuck into some team initiative games. We spent Tuesday rotating through various activities including canoeing, rock climbing and navigation. The rest of the week will see students participate in raft building, a high ropes course and the leap of faith, along with many more activities.

Ms Rachel Harrison
OIC Rangers



Fergus, Jack and Hugo having a break and enjoying the view



William Jackson and Isaac Gerdes watching some others play footy whilst waiting for breakfast



Monday afternoons welcome chat to the students with a beautiful backdrop!!

DIRECTOR OF CO-CURRICULAR, WILL CALDWELL

Guest Report by Mrs Rachael Edmonds

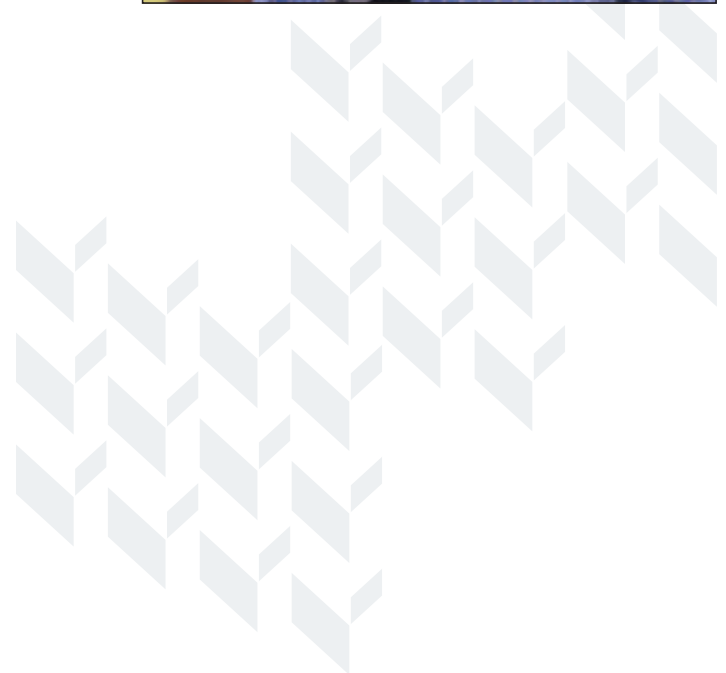
As I type this report students are stepping outside their comfort zones. Whether it be on stage in the Junior School musical dressed as a Horton the Elephant, climbing the rock wall at Camp Cooby, tasting their first ration pack at Nymboida, trying to surf for the first time at Yamba, reading the ocean waves at Sawtell or learning how to fight the unforgiving bush fire that will happen one day. They are outside their comfort zone which will result in experience that will be taken through the rest of their lives. Next year, or even next week, they can then approach new tasks differently.

I too have stepped out of my comfort zone the past year, so as adults we all have to rip the band-aid off at some stage and take on new tasks. It is hard- really hard in some cases. I take my hat off to every student who this week is facing something never done before. It is not easily done-even for adults it is tough - and when doing it with your peers it can be so much harder; you don't want to let anyone down, you don't want to tear up when it gets too much. But remember, the people next to you, in front of you- they have all been through it before. They too have held tears back, they too have stepped outside their comfort zone to learn new things. You are not the first. The rewards for trying something new are endless. You will take them through the rest of your life.

Take something with you from this week. Go home- make a damper for Mum or Dad; show Grandad how to tie that knot securely; bring the funny story that happened on Activities Week to the Christmas lunch table. We can all celebrate the experience you had. We will all be proud to hear about your experiences. And we can all learn from the day you stepped out of your comfort zone. You will now be able to make more steps, baby steps, or big ones, to conquer the unknown. You will be so proud of yourself for achieving this.

Be safe on your school break. Be kind to all around you. Remember to look at what you have, not what you don't have. Walk through the school gates in 2018 ready to take on new tasks and step a little bit further outside that comfort zone. You will be forever proud in doing so, and so will those who love and support you.

Mrs Rachael Edmonds
Co-curricular Assistant



Mountain Biking

On Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November, the NSW Cross Country Mountain Biking Championships was held at SportUNE. It was the first time the State Championships have been held in this region. The TAS mountain biking team was well represented at this competition with 18 students racing over the weekend. These included: Angus Goudge and Louis Ross in the U13 event, with Toby Inglis, Hunter Moore, Xavier Munsie, Hamish Chalmers, Sam Coombes, Fletcher Jackson, Joe Kermode, Nick Munsie, Tom Scifleet, Archie Chick, Archi Lawrence, Riley Simmons and Alexander Zuber competing in the U15 men's category. Jack Sewell, Toby McMaster, Sam King and Duncan Chalmers raced in the U17 men's category, while the TAS mountain bike team captains Angus Apps and Harry Graham competed in the U19 men's division.

The level of competition at this event was as expected - top quality and hugely competitive. Some riders had travelled from as far as Canberra and Brisbane to race (even though they couldn't contest the NSW championships). Many of these competitors have sponsors, personal training programs and have been riding for years. So our students certainly had their work cut out for them, considering our season only started seven weeks earlier and there had been no local club races to help prepare for this level of competition. Our students rose to the challenge and gave solid performances throughout. Some standout results were Archie Chick placing 3rd in the U15 men with Hamish Chalmers and Joe Kermode placing in the top 10 in this division. Sam King placed 9th in the U17 men while Angus Apps finished 3rd and Harry Graham 6th in the U19 men. Not to be outdone by the students, Sovann Pen (gap student and coach) won the expert men's division and Michael Harris (OA and coach) took out the elite men's championship.

Congratulations to all students, not just to those who placed in their categories, but to everyone on your fine performance and courageous effort at such a high level of competition. You all really should be proud of yourselves. Thank you to the TAS mountain bike coaches and parents who supported the team over the weekend.

Mrs Jo Benham



GIRLS' EDUCATION DIRECTOR, ALEX POLLITT

There is a great short story I read many years ago called "Carry your own Skis". I read it in a book of stories written by a family of five women. Each sister contributed something to this anthology about the lessons they'd learnt growing up. I loved them and I found myself really liking these very different sisters as they gave perspective on life- sometimes funny, sometimes poignant, but all memorable.

'Carry your own Skis' talked of going to Canadian ski fields as children. The girls would be taken by their mother, with their aunt and cousins. These were significant times in their family, filled with drama and adventure and memorable moments that tended to be tinged with pain and bone- shattering cold. However, no-one wanted to be left in the lodge, away from the action! The way their mother determined if they were old enough to join the rest of family on the slopes was one simple rule. Could they carry their own skis both from the lodge to the fields in the morning, but more importantly, from the fields back to the lodge at the end of the day when they were exhausted, frozen and sore from head to toe from the day's adventures? If they couldn't be responsible for themselves and their stuff then they were not ready to be let loose on the ski fields.

The story went on to discuss how the author, from a very young age, could pick the people who had 'learnt to carry their own skis' and the value of these people in life.

The concept of carrying my own skis has been something I often return to and ask of myself. However, this week I am acutely aware of it as I watch Year 7 Rangers in action. You can see immediately those students who 'carry their own skis'. They are the ones who have their drink bottles, hat and sunscreen packed and ready for the activity ahead. They are the ones who don't get up from their table leaving plates and cups and mess behind for someone else to clean up. They are the ones who contribute to a group rather than finding ways of opting out. I think carrying your own skis is sometimes about maturity, but it's also a core value that has to be taught.

Rangers and Cadets and so much of what we do at TAS is about trying to help our young people learn to 'carry their own skis'. If you don't have what you need while canoeing then you have to walk all the way back up the hill to get it before we let you on the water. If you leave your mess on the table then you 'volunteer' to help clean the whole dining room. All week we will be trying to instil a sense of personal responsibility in our young charges. However the question I ask each of us, is are we reinforcing this enough at home? I look after girl boarders and I have daily choices about where and how I let or don't let girls take responsibility.



Do I open the boarding house if they forget something, do I drive them to the shop if they forget to get items on their allocated days for town leave, do I clean the kitchen rather than making the duty group come back and do it? I'm all for kindness and caring, but I have to be careful I don't enable irresponsibility, sometimes through kindness and sometimes because it's easier just to do it for them. Those reading this who are parents have the toughest of all jobs and this fine line is something I'm sure you grapple with every day.- when to step in, when to smooth over, when to battle and when to say 'No - you have to carry your own skis on this one!'

At the end of the day, we have a collective responsibility to teach our students to be responsible and the wonderful thing is that it's a partnership. All of us, whether we are the parents, the teachers, the coaches, the boarding staff or any other adult in the life of our young people, are part of the team!

So as we join forces in the quest to help our students take responsibility for themselves and their stuff, may we be creating the kind of adults who don't make excuses, who follow through and finish a task, who don't assume someone else will do the 'yucky' jobs and sort out mess for them. May we create kids and future adults who truly understand the importance, and value, of carrying their own skis... to the lodge and back.

Miss Alex Pollitt

TAS JUNIOR SCHOOL
Production of



**Seussical
JR.**

Music by
STEPHEN FLANNERY

Lyrics by
LYNN AHRENS

Book by LYNN AHRENS and STEPHEN FLAHERTY
Based on the works of DR. SEUSS

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia

Matinee
30 November 1:30pm

Evening Performance
1 & 2 December 6:00pm



\$15 Adults \$10 Children

For bookings visit hoskins.as.edu.au
or get them from:
www.trybooking.com/SLTO

MUSIC MATTERS

Week 9 Music Rehearsals and Performances

TAS Ensembles will be busy in Week 9 with a wide range of rehearsals and performances. Please check the schedule carefully for the week ahead.

Monday 4 December

7:45am – 8:45am: Carol Service rehearsal in Memorial Hall
TAS Singers, Cantique, Young Voices and TAS Chapel Choir

8:45am – 10:00am: Middle School/Senior School Carol Service
Memorial Hall
TAS Singers, Cantique, Young Voices and TAS Chapel Choir

10:30am: Junior School Speech Day Rehearsal
FanTAStics and T-5 Choir

11:40am: Middle School Final Assembly Rehearsal
Hayley Whitehill, TAS Piano Trio, TAS Young Voices, Cassidy Williams and The Rolling Oates

2.30pm: Junior School Christmas Service in Memorial Hall

3:30pm – 5:00pm: TAS Big Band rehearsal in Music Centre

5:00pm – 6:00pm: TAS Senior Jazz Combo rehearsal in
Music Centre

Tuesday 5 December

7:30am – 8:30am: Camerata String Ensemble rehearsal in
Music Centre
TAS Camerata, Alistair Le Surf and Will Mackson

8:45am: Junior School Speech Day Music Rehearsal in
Memorial Hall
FanTAStics and T-5 Choir

10:35am: Final Assembly Performance
Matthew Turnbull, Hannah Neilson and Lily Neilson

1:30pm – 3:30pm: Cash Cup in Memorial Hall

3:30pm – 5:00pm: MS/SS Speech Day Music rehearsal in the
Gym
*TAS Big Band, TAS Senior Jazz Combo and TAS Camerata
TAS Combined Choirs (until 4:00pm)*

5:00pm – 7:00pm: PLC Carol Service at St. Mary's Cathedral
TAS Singers and TAS Chapel Choir

Wednesday 6 December

7:50am – 8:45am: *FanTAStics* rehearsal in Memorial Hall

7:45am – 8:45am: *TAS Drummers* in Music Centre

2:00pm: Middle School Final Assembly in Memorial Hall
Hayley Whitehill, TAS Piano Trio, TAS Young Voices, Cassidy Williams and The Rolling Oates

5:00pm: Junior School Speech Day in Memorial Hall

Thursday 7 December

7:30am – 8:30am: MS/SS Speech Day Music rehearsal in Gym
*TAS Big Band, TAS Senior Jazz Combo, TAS Camerata, TAS
Drummers, TAS Combined Choirs (arrive 8:00am)*

8:50am: Speech Day entertainment (prior to the Ceremony)
TAS String Trio (Junior School covered area)
TAS Big Band (Gym)

9:30am: MS/SS Speech Day Ceremony
*TAS Big Band, TAS Senior Jazz Combo, TAS Camerata, TAS
Drummers and TAS Combined Choirs*

Ms Leanne Roobol
Director of Music



HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, MARK HARRISON

Well, the week's arrived: beginning Saturday morning there's been a progressive exodus of students from the Middle School and this will cease when our Year 6 students head to Buccarumbi on Tuesday. I'm going to Buccarumbi with them and will spend a couple of days at the camp. I then intend on going to Nymboida to see, some at least, Year 8 people. The weather forecast would be better were we related, at least distantly, to ducks. However, being out of our comfort zone is one of the reasons why we go away and it's likely to be damp and this is the way 'things' are. Farmers probably won't complain and families may be grateful for some break from that sun-touched feeling that kids can suffer from, despite our valiant efforts to eliminate or minimise the risk in this regard.

The Year 7s have arrived in Toowoomba and managed the trip well and will, no doubt, be excited at the prospect of a week's activity that the school could not otherwise entertain (on campus). From the information I've received, theirs should be a worthwhile, indeed exciting experience.

The fact students are away from school for much of the week doesn't mean the place grinds to a halt. I know that semester reports are being checked and collated, ready for distribution in the next few weeks. I also know that *The Carols Service* is being organised and that *Speech Day*, too, is being 'sorted out' so that you can enjoy the end of year celebrations next week.

Whilst on the topic of our final week, I want to reinforce that it is one of celebration and that it will be a greater success for your having participated in its activities. I also know that your children will enjoy it more if they can have part of the week with you, so please come to TAS if you can.

The term has been successful. The exam block was good in that it gave students an opportunity to show what they could display of knowledge under time conditions. The bivouac allowed them to taste what they are experiencing this week and the term's activities overall have forced a situation where we have needed to work together to make it a success for most people. But it would be foolish to think that some things have, for whatever reason, not been easy or successful for some and, while the break is close, please don't think that we're not interested in feedback from you. I don't have a crystal ball – if something is worrying you, you need to contact us. I may not be in a position to 'fix' everything, but if I don't know about concerns then I won't be able to fix anything.



The most successful part of the term for me has been enjoying the company of young people who enjoy the company of others. If they've been very tired, then students haven't shown this in a way that concerns me: nothing has gone wrong in such a way that we need to review systems; some things have gone awry of course, but we've been able to manage these things and students have been largely supportive of what we've done. Another successful part of term has been the presence of our new senior student leaders who, true to their word, have come to the Middle School, simply making themselves available to talk and to listen and some have even begun a system of games for our people. Such initiatives augur well for 2018 and I know that Middle School students have been happy with the presence of our school leaders.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible as we celebrate the final week of the academic year.

Good wishes,

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School

HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL, IAN LLOYD

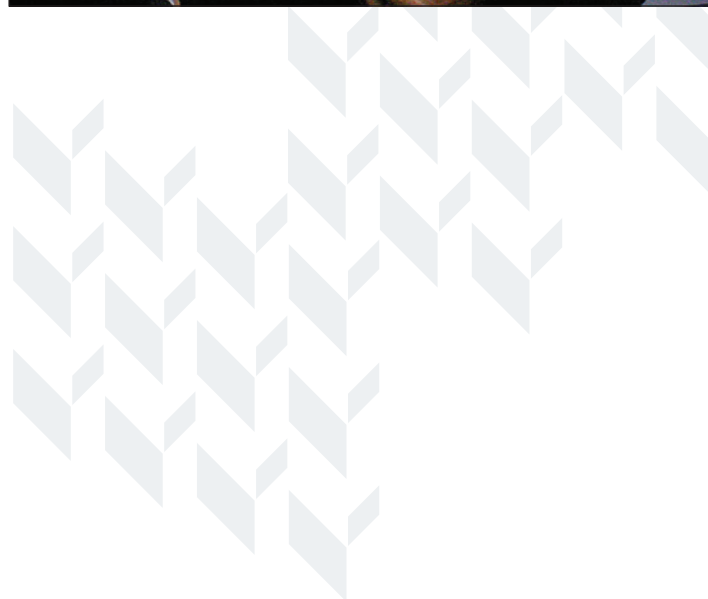
As we enter the final rehearsal week for our musical, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved for what seems to be an increasingly large team effort behind the scenes of this fantastic production. I have just emerged from a full rehearsal and I can say, even with my musical limitations - it is good! The students are embracing the chance to be on stage and in doing so are learning (some have a little way to go!) that this is a really fun performance. It is colourful, lively and very entertaining and I look forward to seeing it with you all. Please remember our End of Year Celebration after the final performance - a Sausage Sizzle with all provided in the Undercover Junior School area. We may have to be creative to negotiate the weather but we will see how we go.

(If you did not receive a text from us on Monday about the cancellation of some after school sport, this may indicate that we do not have all your contact details. If so, please contact Mrs Lasker on 6776 5817)

End of Year arrangements, Speech Day and End of Year Reports

By now, you should have all received an invitation to our end of year activities, events and productions and I hope you will be able to join us for many of these. If you have not received this, or have any questions, please contact us here at school. As you know, Junior School will close on Wednesday December 6 from 12.30 pm and most children will be collected from the undercover area or the turning circle. If this is not the case please contact us. Afterschool Care will be available until 3.30 pm only and then, all children will have to return to their classrooms by 4.30 pm dressed very tidily in full formal uniforms ready for Speech Day. With increasing numbers, finding seats in the Hall is sure to become more difficult so please bear this in mind.

The end of semester and year reports are currently being finalised and, as is our practice, will be mailed to all parents soon after Speech Day. If you would like another address used rather than your home address on the School database please contact Mrs Sandra Lasker on 6776 5817 or junior@as.edu.au



Bike Safety Day and Triathlon

Last Friday was another fantastic day in Junior School with the excitement of the Bike Safety and Triathlon Day overwhelming all else. Having challenged our knowledge, skills and understanding of bike safety, it was time to take on the challenge of the swim, run and cycle, individually for some, in teams for others. Thanks go to the key players involved - Mr Mark Bullen from Bullens Cycles, Mr Jim Pennington and Mrs Christine Wright for organising the respective components of the day and to all and sundry who assisted to make this big day possible - Mr Richard Newton, Mrs Jo Benham the team of senior students from yrs 8, 9 & 10. As you will see in the photos, there were some wonderful moments!



Congratulations to Charlie Ward Year 3

You will read a report about Charlie's recent riding success in this edition of TAS Talks but I did want to add my congratulations here. Charlie has to compete against much older children and it is testament to her outstanding character and resilience that she performs so well. She is clearly a very talented rider and this result comes from a lot of hard work and persistence.

Mr Ian Lloyd
Head of Junior School

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday wishes this week go to Thomas Dundon, Ramin Hawlader and Adam Schaerf.

Year 5 Raffle

The winners of the Year 5 raffle are:

Hamper: Tommy Blanch

Cleaning Voucher valued at \$210: Wilkie Davison

Five Belgrave Cinema Tickets (kindly donated by UNE Life):Vernon Crew

Mrs Sharon Dundon

Looking Ahead

No Sports Training	
Monday 4 December	Junior School Carol Service - 2.30 pm - Memorial Hall
Tuesday 5 December	Town Swimming Pool Party 10.00 - 11.00am
Wednesday 6 December	Junior School Speech Day Memorial Hall 5.00 - 6.00 pm
Thursday 7 December	MS & SS Speech Day - 9.30 am TAS Sports Centre

End of Year Highlights

The End of Year highlights will be noted each week in TAS Talks as they approach but I take this opportunity to alert you to these special occasions at this very busy time of the term. I hope you will be able to join us and celebrate what has been another busy and wonderful year.

Final JS Assembly	Wednesday 29 November - Memorial Hall Yr. T - 2 from 2.00 pm; Yr. 3-5 from 2.30 pm with presentations at 2.30 pm
Seussical Jr	Thursday 30 November, Friday 1 & Saturday 2 December
Junior School BBQ	Saturday 2 December (after the final Seussical performance)
Carols Service	Monday 4 December 2.30 pm - Memorial Hall
Junior School Speech Day	Wednesday 6 December 5.00 pm - Memorial Hall
Senior School Speech Day	Thursday 7 December - 9.30 am - TAS Sports Centre

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

The final brochure for the year from Scholastic (no. 8) has now been distributed to Junior School classrooms. Orders from this catalogue should be placed through the Scholastic LOOP order website by **Friday, 24 November, 2017**. Please follow the instructions on the order page in the brochure, or follow the prompts on the LOOP website. Should you wish to pay by cheque, please place your cheque and order form in an envelope in the red letter box at the Junior School office. Please note that cash is not accepted. Should you need any assistance, please contact me on nramazan@as.edu.au.

When ordering online, use the Gift Function to tag Book Club orders on LOOP that are intended as a surprise gift. Your gift order will be delivered to school and marked accordingly, for me to set aside for collection by you from the Junior School office. You'll find a handy Gift Function 'How-to' guide at scholastic.com.au/loopresources.

Thank you to all who have purchased from Book Club throughout the year. Once again, you have enabled the library to redeem points to purchase some wonderful resources and books for our Junior School.

Mrs Natalie Ramazani



JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT, CHRISTINE WRIGHT

Sport for remainder of Term 4

As our year draws to a close please note the following dates for sports training for the remainder of the term.

Week 8 – training and games as normal (some alternate coaches due to Activities Week)

Week 9 – No training. Players will be informed if games are on this week.

A huge thank you to all our coaches for their work with our children this term. Summer sports teams will remain the same for Term 1, 2018.

Triathlon Results

A wonderful afternoon was had last Friday for our annual Junior School Triathlon. It was impressive to see the support and great sportsmanship from our children during this exciting event. Congratulations to all those who participated both in team and individual events.



Final results from the day

Team Events:

Kinder

- 1st Jacqui and William
- 2nd Layla, Mila and Eunseo
- 3rd Bonnie, Joshua and Ramin

Year 1

- 1st Oliver, Lucy and Evelyn
- 2nd Henry, Minnie and Lucas
- 3rd Jack, Ruby and Edwina

Year 2

- 1st Hugo, Christopher and Ava
- 2nd Peter, Xavier and Grace
- 3rd Andrew, Josiah, Joshua and Tommy

Year 3

- 1st Tom, Sinclair and James
- 2nd Will and Ryan
- 3rd Felix, Mila, Euan and Sonny

Year 4

- 1st Archie and Kyuseo
- 2nd Nicholas, Hugo and Austin
- 3rd Ty and Paige

Year 5

- 1st Lennox, Harry P and Max
- 2nd William, Henry and Alistair
- 3rd Toby Thomas and Harry Hopkins

Individual Events

Year 2

- 1st Joe Fenwicke
- 2nd Sam Ford
- 3rd Harry Brownlie

Year 3

- 1st Charlie Ward
- 2nd Blake Whitehill
- 3rd Charlie Ryan

Year 4

- 1st Iles Baker
- 2nd Evan Kwan
- 3rd Sam Strelitz and Flinders Ward

Year 5

- 1st Tom Ball
- 2nd Sam Hynes
- 3rd Abbott White

Winner of the Sarah Heagney Memorial Trophy: Tom Ball



Show jumping

Charlie Ward competed at the Martins Gully Pony Club Showjumping Championships at NEGS last weekend. Charlie placed in all jump rounds against competitors twice her age. She came away with the D grade overall highest point score winning her horse a new rug!



Basketball

The last night of 2017 basketball was held at The Den this evening and once again the children played their absolute hardest with mixed results. The Year 5 team learnt the importance of never, ever underestimating the opponent! They played hard and fair and were narrowly defeated due to some very unlucky misses and some great playing by the PLC team.

Well done Harry, Latifa, Hamish, Thomas, Toby and Alec for a great term! It has been an absolute delight coming and watching you play each week. Your skill development and sportsmanship is a credit to you all. A huge thank you once again to Sharon Dundon for your amazing support – you have taught me as much as you have the team and I have greatly appreciated you being with me each week as I learn the ropes of basketball.

The Year 4 teams continued to play well tonight and both games were exciting and evenly matched. Although I was scoring on Court A, I could feel the tension and excitement building behind me on Court B. A narrow loss and a win was a great way to end the term. Well done to Iles, Ted, Lachie, Theo, Ty, Gus, Sam, Millie and Flinders for bouncing through the doors of The Den each week with such enthusiasm and determination. I look forward to hopefully seeing you all back on the court in 2018!

Mrs Tania Hardin



LITTLEFISH



CONTEMPORARY DANCE MASTERCLASS

MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2018

THE FISH TANK 9/10 85 MARSH STREET

10AM - 12PM

10 - 16 YRS
\$50.00

1PM - 3.30PM

16 YRS AND ABOVE
\$65.00

For further details and enrolment forms email
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SING . DANCE . ACT

TUE 23 - THUR 25

JANUARY 2018

9AM - 4.30PM

AT THE FISH TANK

\$250 PER STUDENT

12 years and above

BE PART OF OUR HOLIDAY
WORKSHOP AND START YOUR
JOURNEY AS A "TRIPLE-THREAT"!

MASTER THE ART OF PERFORMANCE
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HOLIDAY WORKSHOP! LEARN
SCENES AND SONGS FROM
POPULAR MUSICALS AND BE PART
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DANCE NUMBER!

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ARMIDALE TENNIS ACADEMY

SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS - AO SERIES

WEEK 1: 11 DEC - 15 DEC 2017*
WEEK 2: 18 DEC - 22 DEC 2017
WEEK 3: 08 JAN - 12 JAN 2018

*Week 1 is a half day camp open to all ages

Grab your enrolment form -

<http://armidaletennisclub.weebly.com/coaching.html>

9.00am - 12pm HALF DAY (kids 5 to 7yrs)
\$50.00 per day OR \$225.00 for the week

9.00am - 3.00pm FULL DAY (kids 8+)
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dave@armidaletennisacademy.com.au
Golf Links Road Armidale 2350

