NUMERACY ROCKS

Some Year 7 and 8 Maths classes are about to start a project with iPads. Classes will be split into small groups for half their lessons over the fortnight cycle. Maths staff and some teachers from other faculties are being trained in teaching strategies using the technology. The focus for the project has come from professional learning on the Numeracy Continuum K – 10 and data from last year’s NAPLAN results. Most of the 70 students in the project have already had an introductory lesson on how to use an iPad and have learned some netiquette around responsible use. Students will also be making videos of their learning to post on our school website so parents can see what they are working on. Students involved in the project will be given a note to take home to parents for permissions to publish and responsible use of technology.

It was great to see so many students participating in NAPLAN tests last week. Thank you to parents who ensured that students who were absent due to illness or on excursions attended the catch-up tests last Friday. Mrs Croft deserves accolades for her organisation of such a huge event across Years 7 and 9 and thanks also to Mr Colin Gadd who assisted. Resources and some staffing are allocated by DEC based on NAPLAN results and it is very important that all students participate.

The Armidale Eisteddfod has already started. Good luck to all our students competing in school sections. I know they will do a wonderful job and be great ambassadors for Armidale High.

Anne Matley
Principal

Open Basketballers Zone Champions

Jone Tiko, Matthew Turner, Fuad Hasari, Sam Struck, Koniy Chinmoth, Makuach Maluach, Seamus Druitt, Matur Maluach and Jay Harris make up Armidale High Opens Basketball team; Regional Champions in the Combined High Schools competition for 2013 after an exciting game against Tenterfield High on Thursday.

Bill Turner, who coached the team in the absence of coach, Stephen Bartolo, commented that the team ‘did their school proud. Each boy worked hard for the team against a strong team from Tenterfield which included two North-West players.’

This was the eighth consecutive year the team has made the Regionals and they look forward to playing a coastal team in the State Quarter-Finals.

For more photos see the gallery on the Armidale High website.
P&C COLUMN
Meeting the Shadow Minister for Education

Treasurer, Anne Ceapa, and President, Elizabeth O’Hara, met with Carmel Tebbutt, Shadow Minister for Education, last week. The discussion was wide ranging and included:

- concerns at continued cuts to Education in spite of the injection of Gonski money
- the State Governments continuing interest in rezoning and changing approval processes
- the end of the laptop rollout to Year 9 students
- older students ‘falling through the cracks’ especially with the decimation of TAFE (with which AHS has many links)
- free bus travel past a student’s nearest State school

Gonski News
A message from the I give a Gonski team:

As you know, in a recent breakthrough, Premier O’Farrell signed up for Gonski. But, in his Budget Reply speech last week, the Leader of the Opposition said ‘we won’t back a so-called national education system that some states don’t support’, thereby putting this agreement at risk if the Coalition gains government in September.

We are planning a community event this Sunday between 11:30am and 1:30 pm at Stewart House, Lower Grounds, Carrington Parade, South Curl Curl on Sydney’s northern beaches. Gonski-supporting parents, teachers and community members will gather to seek a ‘Gonski Guarantee’ for the agreement already struck in NSW.

I know you are not in Sydney, but can you help spread the word to friends and family you know there? The link is https://www.facebook.com/events/520641541330371/- please invite your Sydney-based friends you know care about education.

This will be just one of many community events happening around the country. Wherever you live, you can send a message to the Opposition Leader about a Gonski Guarantee here: http://igiveagonski.com.au/elobbies/abbott/.

Let’s send the Opposition Leader a message he can’t ignore - it’s time to sign up to Gonski.

Thank you for your support.

Warmest wishes,
The I give a Gonski team.

Year 9 and 10 SRE seminars

On Thursday 30th May during Periods 5 and 6, Years 9 and 10 will have their Term 2 SRE seminar. This is an activity of Special Religious Education (Scripture). Students who are already exempt from the SRE program will be excused from the event while all other students are expected to attend. This event is organised by the Armidale Ministers Fellowship (an organisation representing Christian denominations in Armidale). This term the event will feature US hip hop artist Brady Goodwin. It will be held in the DEN.

For further information please contact the school.

Mr Les Moreman
(SRE Teacher)

Karen Choe-Fichte

Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies and Year 11 Aboriginal Studies students were addressed recently by Karen Choe-Fichte, a US diplomat for the past 15 years. Born in South Korea. Karen’s family immigrated to the US when she was 10 years old. Karen has lived and worked in Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Barbados, Kuwait, Czech Republic and Iraq and speaks seven languages. She is about to be posted to Afghanistan.

Karen spoke to the students about human rights and about some of the challenges faced when different cultures, with different conventions and expectations, interact. She is passionate about equal rights for minority groups and fighting corruption in government.
Careers News

Close to 30 Year 12 students have begun undertaking training to receive their certificates in Responsible Service of Alcohol and Responsible Conduct of Gaming. Phil Weaton from the Armidale Bowling Club delivered the RCG course over one day and the students will now complete some online training to receive their RSA accreditation. These qualifications are compulsory to serve alcohol or work near any forms of gambling, which is a large employment opportunity for students just leaving school, giving our students a great head start.

Congratulations to Britni Moore in Year 10 for being accepted into the Big W partnership scheme. Britni will work one day a week in the Armidale Big W with the possibility of gaining a School Based Traineeship in Year 11.

Mr Polson

Outdoor Recreation

The Year 11 Outdoor Recreation class visited Echidna Gully and participated in Paintball Skirmish. The activity was incorporated into the WH&S unit and involved the practical application of Risk Analysis and Risk Management. It was also a lot of fun and at times rather painful.

Thanks go to Jeremy and Theresa at Echidna Gully and to Hardman’s for the use of the community bus.
**AHS Choir in the Sydney ‘Arts in Concert’**

Our train left Armidale at 9am on Sunday 12th May with ten singers, Riya Thapa, Georgie Cooper, Saskia Smith, Kayla Laing, Bridget Pattison, David Tan, Torsten Strokirch, Jonathan Bruhl, Sam Robinson and Oliver Bruhl, keen to represent Armidale High at the Sydney Arts in Concert. We reached Sydney Central Station at 5.00pm, and checked into the Railway Square YHA. Dinner that night was in Chinatown, followed by a walk through the Darling Harbour precinct with shopping, and some delicious gelato ice-creams.

The next morning, after breakfast, we went straight to rehearsals at the Town Hall – 10 until 4, with a break for lunch. Rehearsals were hard work, singing through the songs many times, until they were just perfect. The choir, which consisted of 600 voices from state schools all around NSW sounded amazing together. It was the first time in the Town Hall for many of us, and it is a spectacular building, with a massive showcase organ covering the whole back wall.

After rehearsals, we had two hours to eat dinner and change into our school uniform before returning for the evening performance. The audience of family and friends arrived for the show to start at seven. The hall was full, anticipating a great night of music. The orchestra (made up of students from state schools across the state) kicked off the show and sounded brilliant. Then it was the choir’s first song, *The Wanderer*, followed by *You, Me and the Wide Open Sky*. Then the orchestra took to the stage again, followed by choir, where we performed Mozart’s ‘Requiem.’ This collection of seven pieces was incredibly intense, portraying the songs’ dramatic themes including ‘day of judgement’ and ‘mass of the dead.’ The songs, all in Latin, had some difficult choir parts, but the work paid off and sounded tremendous. After more orchestral music, we concluded the show with songs from the musical *Porgy and Bess*.

Overall the performance was excellent, and a great night was had by all. After a good night’s sleep, we returned to Armidale by coach, arriving at 7:30pm.

A huge thank you to Mrs Teege, who organised to take us away and helped us learn the music. Thank you also to Mr Teege, David’s mum and Bridget’s mum, who also accompanied us on our trip.

Written by Georgie Cooper and Riya Thapa.