PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who completed their HSC exams last week and celebrated the end of their schooling with a formal dinner at the Armidale Ex Services Club. All the students looked splendid dressed up in their formal clothes and many parents, staff and friends joined them in the park to wish them well on their special night. Now it is just a matter of waiting for their results before they make important choices about their future directions. HSC results will be available to students on Wednesday 17th December.

Our Boys’ Basketball Team finished a very creditable seventh in the U15 CHS State competition. Congratulations to Mr Bartolo, the coach, Ms Turner and the boys on a tremendous effort. There were some very close games against some very good teams in the round robin competition which was held in Terrigal.

Last Thursday was our Year 7 Orientation Day and we welcomed students from Year 6 who will be attending Armidale High School in 2015. The students had the chance to experience some lessons and a barbecue. It was a productive day and thank you to Mrs Partridge and Mr Lord as well as the staff who helped on the day. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students in January 2015.

Our excursion program concludes this week with Year 8 and 10 returning today from Lennox Head and Moreton Island respectfully. By all accounts, they have had a marvellous time with excellent weather and a range of exciting activities including sea kayaking, surfing, camping and visits to Dreamworld. Thank you to all the staff, and the Year Advisers in particular, for the time, effort and organisation they have put into ensuring Armidale High School students have had these wonderful opportunities.

Last Wednesday was Guinness Book of Records Day and our students had the opportunity to try and break two world records. Thank you to Anthony Kelly for organising this unique opportunity. You can read and see the results of our students’ endeavours in the newsletter. Staff are currently involved in putting together a strategic plan for Armidale High School for the next three years. This is an important document which will shape the school’s direction for the next few years and will reflect some of the important changes that are occurring in schools as well as helping our students prepare to be twenty first century learners. The process involves extensive consultation with staff, students and parents and the school will be seeking input from parents via email and parent meetings to help frame the plan.

A reminder that our Presentation Evening is coming up very soon on Tuesday 25th November at 7pm in the Auditorium. All parents and families are most welcome to attend and celebrate our students’ achievements throughout the year.

Roger Horton
Acting Principal

P & C Meeting
Tuesday 18th November
7pm at
Armidale City Bowling Club
**JAPANESE NEWS**

**Live Engagement with Japan via VC**

This term many of our Japanese classes have been doing Video Conferences live with Japanese High School students. Our Video Conference partner school is Chosei High School in Chiba Prefecture. This connection is made possible because of the Asia Connexions program that has been running under the Leadership of Doctor Myung-Sook Auh of the University of New England. This program connects schools in NSW with students in an Asian country to enable our students real chances to engage with Asia at a meaningful level. The connections are mainly between Korea with a few schools connecting with Japan and Indonesia at this stage.

Our students at Armidale High School are very excited and happy to have these chances to interact with peers in Japan. Not only do they have a chance to practise their Japanese in a meaningful and real-life situation, they also learn about Japanese culture and interests of young people in Japan from those young Japanese students. This is an invaluable learning opportunity for our students, particularly in this global environment when in particular our connection with Asia is at the forefront of friendship and business. I am very proud of how our students have engaged in this program and made the most of these real learning opportunities.

Comments by Year 9 and 10 students re why they want to have VC with Japan:
* we get to interact with Japanese schools and learn about them
* you engage live with another place/country
* you get to learn about another culture.
* you get to practise your Japanese in front of an audience
* It is effective in learning about different cultures
* It's a good way for students to connect with other schools around the world to learn about their culture.
* You get to see the other students and how different their classrooms are
* It is an interesting way to learn about Japanese culture because you are talking with them basically face to face, and able to directly communicate, without paying to travel and meet up somewhere physically. I like that you can show PowerPoint’s and other presentations too.
* We learn more about Japan. We get to experience more Japanese language and talk to people in Japan in Japanese. We get to show them Australian culture/aspects of our life while also learning about theirs.
Year 7 spent their annual excursion at Woody Head. Students participated in a range of activities including ocean swimming and bushwalking. The students conducted themselves with style and grace throughout the week and a fun time was had by all. Four senior students went along to assist the teachers and displayed great leadership skills and conducted themselves professionally at all times.
**WORLD GUINNESS DAY**

With the help of many students, we managed to secure a Guinness World Record for the most people head banging simultaneously on Wednesday 12th November.

We did attempt another record for thong throwing but due to the lack of students in the school, with Year 8 and Year 10 excursions on this week and Year 12 finished, we were just 19 students short. Unfortunately we were unable to attempt these records any other day as the 12th was Guinness World Record day.

Congratulations to all those involved and thank you Anthony Kelly for organising this for the school.

**Parent Community Liaison Officer Update**

Native tree planting will begin next week for our new garden. Congratulations to Zoe Barker-Smith for the winning garden design and thank you to all the other entries.

We will need many helpers to plant trees, I will be contacting those who have already volunteered but if you would like to add your name to the list please let me know.

I have implemented an “Idea’s Board” in our school for any member of our school community to contribute ideas on improvements they would like to any part of our school. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to send them with your child or bring them yourself. The board is at the bottom of the stairs, near the drama room.

Our school Facebook page is updated very often with exciting news and photos, please like our page to receive these updates.

Our skoolbag app has lot of important information for parents about all years as well as notifications that can be very helpful in our busy lives. You can install the app on your mobile phone by searching for “Armidale High School – Skoolbag”

Our other mode of transferring information and news is our school website, www.armidale-h.schools.nsw.edu.au. There are updates often and a very helpful calendar. You can find out about all the different faculties, parental involvement, look through the galleries and even find the school bell timetable so you know the best time to contact your child to reduce classroom disturbance.

If you have any spare time to donate to the school or any ideas you would like to contribute towards improving our school, I would love to hear from you.
Children thrive with parental involvement

Section 1.01 Better learners
Research shows that kids do better at school when parents get involved – in maths, English, their social relationships and their approaches to learning. It has also been proven that parental involvement leads to higher rates of children finishing school and higher aspirations toward further study. Some US studies even state that a parent's involvement in their child's learning is the biggest factor influencing their academic outcome. Now while that possibility could be almost as terrifying as it is encouraging, it does make you realise that no effort you make is wasted.

Section 1.02 Happier kids
When parents are involved in their child's school life, it leads to a happy and well-adjusted child, who has positive relationships with teachers and peers. If you find you need to have a tricky conversation with another parent or a teacher later in the year, it feels easier when you've already met them.

Section 1.03 Better coping skills
Resilience is the ability to bounce back from disappointments and traumas in life. Research shows that a sense of belonging to a community is a key factor in becoming resilient. Children are more resilient when they feel they are a valuable part of the community, and especially in their school community. Parents also develop greater resilience skills if they feel they are supported in their community.

Section 1.04 What kind of involvement?
Taking part in your child's learning takes many forms: Googling information for assignments; breakfast-time spelling quizzes; or even racing across town hunting for long, black pants for the school music festival in the middle of summer.

Ways to get involved in your child's primary school:
- help at the canteen
- turn sausages at the barbecue
- help out with class reading groups
- sew costumes for school plays
- organise fundraisers
- volunteer to go on the class excursion

- hand out water at the walkathon.

The more activities schools offer children, the more opportunities there are for parents to get involved, even if it's once or twice a year.

Section 1.05 When kids get older
You may notice invitations to help out with older kids may be few and far between as they become more independent and want more privacy. Just as you once hid the vegies in the spaghetti bolognaise, you may need to think laterally about how to remain in touch with your child's high school without it being too obvious.

Ways to get involved in your child's high school:
- take part in school camp organisation
- offer to talk about what you do for work in careers classes
- timekeep at the sports or swimming carnival

Congratulations

Mrs Moore, Mrs Evans and Ms Matley at ACE/ACEL awards accepting their HTB HARRIS award for our Languages Program.
Year 9 Group Excursion which went to Bonny Hills.

Year 8 Excursion tried their hand at kayaking.

Congratulations to Alex Brown, Year 11, who made the North West Boys’ Cricket Side.