The End of Another Great Year

The presentation evening for 2014 was held last Tuesday night and it was great to see a solid roll up of students and parents. The assembly was hosted by Claudia Thorne and Tim Lockrey, who did a marvellous and very professional job. We were entertained by our guest speaker Naomi James, who is currently Assistant Principal at Grose Vale Public School in Sydney. Naomi is an ex-student and the first Aboriginal Captain of Armidale High School. She spoke of her pride in being a student of Armidale High School and how her experiences had helped shape her life choices and given her a keen sense of responsibility. Thanks go to all staff and particularly to Kris Croft and Donna Smith for their work in organising the night.

Ms Anne Matley is currently on leave and consequently I will be filling her shoes as Relieving Principal until the end of the year. This has resulted in other staff changes. Mrs Tamara Cameron will be the Relieving Deputy Principal and Mr David Partridge is standing in as Head Teacher HSIE. Ms Matley has also indicated she will be taking leave in 2015. Expressions of Interest in that role are currently being called for.

The end of the year is fast approaching and school reports are being finalised. It is anticipated they should be available to students during the last week of school.

Congratulations to the students who are currently attending the Schools Spectacular in Sydney. We have some students in the central choir and a group of girls in the Indigenous Dance section. The show will be broadcast on NBN at 7pm on Saturday 29th November 2014. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of interest activities during Term 5 which commences on Wednesday 10th December. I encourage parents and students to support this opportunity for students and thank Mr Channon for his efforts in organising the week.

I am looking forward to attending our Clontarf Academy awards tonight at the Armidale City Bowling Club where the boys’ achievements for the year will be celebrated.

As this is the final newsletter for the year I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday period and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you to all our wonderful staff for their hard work throughout the year and thank you to the community and parents who have supported the school. Finally best wishes to all our students and our Year 12 who will shortly hear their HSC results. We look forward to seeing all our students refreshed and ready to embark on another year of exceptional learning opportunities in 2015!

Students in Years 7, 11 and 12 start school on Wednesday 28th January, and Years 8, 9 and 10 begin on Thursday 29th January.

Roger Horton
Relieving Principal
Parent Community Liaison Officer Update

As the year is coming to a close the Armidale High School Parents & Citizens Association will be meeting one last time on Tuesday 9th December at the Armidale City Bowling Club, this meeting will begin with dinner at 6pm. Everyone is welcome, and it would be a great opportunity to turn up and get involved. Our P & C needs as much help as possible in supporting the school to increase the educational experiences of our students. If you think you can contribute to our P & C in any way, even if it is just helping with fundraisers, please come along and introduce yourself.

Our major fundraiser for the 2015 year is the Antique Fair. It will be held Fri 20th – Sun 22nd February (see advertisement). If you can spare any time to help out over the 3 days can you let me know and I will pass your details on. I would like to thank Jody Brash for taking on the organisation of the Antique Fair, without her huge effort it would not be progressing as smoothly as it has.

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.

Rebecca Lewis
Email: Rebecca.lewis58@det.nsw.edu.au

Captains Corner

The captains for 2015 have started their term enthusiastically and with high aspirations. Four of us travelled down to Woody Head to meet up with Year 7 on their excursion where we walked the 10km gruelling trek with them, followed by a refreshing dip in the sea. Many worthwhile connections were made and it was a lot of fun to spend time with year groups that we wouldn’t normally spend a lot of time with.

We all helped Mrs Partridge and the Year 9 students at the Year 6 orientation for next year, where we ran games and quizzes, and introduced ourselves as friendly faces for the new students to look out for next year. We were impressed with their knowledge after only spending a day at our school, and they definitely looked like they will fit in with the high standards of our great school.

Our first formal duty for this term was running the Annual Presentation Night. Although it did seem daunting at first, everyone adapted quickly to the situation and took up their role without trouble. Claudia and Tim did an excellent job running the show, and everyone’s performance that night made me proud to be part of such an impressive leadership team.

We have come up with many ideas to implement over the coming year. Naomi James, an ex-school captain of Armidale High, who was the guest speaker at the Presentation Night, assisted us in planning ways we can leave a positive legacy for the school. We hope that we can put those plans into action in the near future. Be sure to keep an eye out for them!

Melanie Brash, School Captain

Captains: Ada Garvey, Tim Lockrey, Melanie Brash, Claudia Thorne, Hayden Dyall and Lucy Cawood (absent on exchange in Germany are Madeleine Ho and Jedidiah Cranfield)
Presentation Evening 2014

Guest speaker, Naomi James, Relieving Principal, Roger Horton and Relieving DP, Tamara Cameron.

Naomi, who was School Captain in 1996, urged students to take every opportunity offered by their terrific school to develop independence and resilience.

Talented Musicians

During the evening, the Armidale High School String Ensemble played “David and Michael” while the AHS Chamber Ensemble played “Jig from Discorsi Musicali – Mageau”.

In the above photo Olivia Rubie – Year 8, Rebecca Tafra – Year 10, Randall Bollenhagen – Year 10 and Ashlee Albertson – Year 10, rehearse for the evening.

Randall was the recipient of the Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award.

Lauren Grzazek was recognised with a Silver Award.

Among students receiving awards at Presentation Night was Torsten Strokirch who received the Helloworld Travel Award for Diligence; Violet Khan, the PBL Award for Year 11; Britni Moore, The Armidale Rotary Award for Diligence; Zoe Johnson, The Readers Companion Award for Junior Agriculture and Shantelle Martin, The Thorne Award for Most Improved Vocational.

Lucy Cawood, Arts Captain, with Mr Mal Gaukroger, Head Teacher PDHPE. Lucy was awarded a Bronze Award and the Al Wynter Award for Achievement in Performing Arts and presented the Year 9 Merit Certificates with Mr Stephen Bartolo.
Harry Jones, Patrick Roberts, Jacinta Brash and Dylan Howey, Year 7 Merit Certificate recipients, with their Year Adviser, Mr Scott Howey.

Riya Thapa and Katie Williams, SRC Representatives, who ushered at Presentation Night.

Katie Williams was recognised with The AHS Award for Diligence, Year 9.

The Armidale High School Barista Girls rounded off their year of serving coffee and muffins to the teachers on Thursday. With the help of Mrs Tamara Cameron and Kye Single, the School Chaplain, the girls raised over $1000 which went towards improving their cafe and training excursions which the girls attended. One of these excursions was to the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern, where they undertook further training in cooking with bush tucker.

One of their highlights for the year was hosting the August meeting of the Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group (AECG). The girls will also be making hot chocolates for the Aboriginal Year 6 transition morning next week.

The girls are looking forward to continuing their business next year. We are hoping to train some more girls to join the group in 2015.

FAREWELL IKUMI-SAN

We are all very sad to say goodbye to our Japanese assistant, Ikumi-san, who has been with us all year. All the students from Years 7 - 12 have benefitted immensely, deepening their knowledge of Japanese language and culture from having Ikumi-san in class. Students have been making origami as farewell presents for Ikumi-san who is pictured here with Year 12 students Eleanor, Jurney and Nadya in front of the display. Year 9 made a card to say 'Thank You Ikumi-san'. The entire Armidale High School Community would like to thank Ikumi-san for her efforts and wish her all the very best.
Alexander Smith and Matthew O’Brien, AHS students involved in this year’s commemoration Ceremony.

Students at Armidale High School commemorated Remembrance Day with a minute’s silence on November 11th, 2014 Before the silence, Alexander Smith, a Year 9 student, presented a rosemary bush to the school. It was accepted by Matthew O’Brien on behalf of the Special Education Unit which will care for it in their garden.

Alexander said, ‘Each year on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, people all around the world stop to commemorate the sacrifice of all those who fought for their countries and their families in times of conflict. This moment marks the signing of the armistice that ended the First World War.

Over 17 million people died during World War I. Of these 10 million were servicemen and 7 million were civilians. It is these people and those involved in subsequent wars that we remember today. It is the sacrifice and service of these men and women that we must not forget.

One of the most well-known symbols of remembrance is the rosemary sprig. Rosemary is said to improve memory and has long been a symbol of great loyalty and remembrance; it is also found at Anzac cove and has become firmly embedded in our remembrance tradition. It is because of this that Year 9 History would like to present a rosemary bush to the Special Education Unit as a token of remembrance for years to come.’

Year 9 students from the Support Unit with their recently completed Bird Houses. The project was completed whilst attending Year 9 Wood Technology Class.
Rebecca Smith, Year 8 Adviser, with Merit Certificate recipients Ashini Ekanayake and Melanie Brash. Melanie, who presented the SRC Report for 2014, received a Silver Award and The MacGregor Family Award for Agriculture.

Year 11 Adviser, Andrew Curry, with Ryan Shaw, recipient of The NSW Premiers Sport Medal and The Hine Family Trophy for Contribution to School Athletics, and James Williams.