Celebrating NAIDOC Week

This week we are celebrating the NAIDOC theme of “Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond”. At the NAIDOC Assembly students and staff learned about the military service of Sir Frank Archibald and Aboriginal Education Worker, Bob Kirk, told a story about Frank Archibald Jnr, as retold by Aunty Grace Gordon. Both our Boys’ Traditional Dance Group and the combined dance group were very impressive (see photos on this page). The audience listened to a Clontarf report from Nathan Lockwood and Miaya Tighe and Shannon Graham gave an account of the Aboriginal Girls’ Barista Project. Congratulations to comperes Tyran Blair and Paula Cutmore on a job well done. Some students and staff participated in the Armidale NAIDOC March today and then attended “A Day in the Dale”.

Congratulations to our U15 Boys’ Basketball Team which is again the best in the region. Good luck with your next game.

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend the Parent/Teacher interviews over the last week or so. Thank you also to the many parents who have donated a tree to the school beautification projects being organised by P&C and to those who have offered to help with the planting and at other working bees.

A big thank you to all our wonderful, hard-working non-teaching staff. Our school really appreciates all you do to support our students, staff and parents and we really couldn’t operate without you!

Anne Matley
Principal
Literacy activities in DEAR

As part of our ongoing focus on Literacy, we have continued our program of short writing activities in DEAR each Wednesday. Last week it was National Literacy and Numeracy week and the theme was "A Poem in your Pocket". The focus in DEAR last week was poetry and students wrote short acrostic poems or limericks about school or the playground.

Here is a sample of some of the poems:

**Some DEAR poems:**

Handball is fun
All day long
Never boring
Desirable
Ball bouncing really fast
All for fun
Long line of people
Lunchtime everyday
(Will, Jack and Tom D3)

Places to sit
Six
Lunch
Cool
Around friends
Hours
Yelling
Of
Grass
Our
Running
Lives
Oval
(Poetic Licence)

U and me
No learning
Dirt

Oxfam Trailwalkers

Three of our teachers and 1 local radiographer have just returned from Sydney after successfully crossing the line as a team of four in the grueling 100km Oxfam Trial walk through the Kuringai National Park.

The conditions were less than favourable for the team that set out on Friday morning 22nd August with 550 other teams from all over the world. With constant rain the week leading up to the event, the extremely wet and muddy conditions proved very arduous and at times ‘soul destroying’. The night walking was particularly tricky with the creeks flooding, occasional showers and rain, no moon to guide them and lack of sleep proving a challenge. The seven checkpoints along the 100km journey were sanity savers for the team giving them some well needed re-fuelling of food and time to attend to injuries as a result of the poor conditions.

The Highland Hikers consisting of Amanda Garvey (completing the walk for the fourth time), Tim Channon (third time finisher), Peter Laffan and Kylie McGowan had been training for many months leading up to the event and through their fundraising campaign set up on Facebook, the team managed to raise over $2000. The event raised over 2 million just this year.

The team would like to express their gratitude to those who supported and particularly to those who made donations.
Keeping Facebook private

- Google your child's name, then search for them on Facebook. See who has access to what information.
- Make sure your child sets their privacy options so only genuine friends can find them on Facebook.
- Having hundreds of Facebook friends isn't proof of popularity; just proof privacy is not being taken seriously.
- What goes on Facebook can become public and permanent – the good, the bad and the soul-destroying embarrassment. Future employers will probably search for your child's name on Google and Facebook.
- Emphasise to your child that they should never agree to meet with anyone they have "met" on Facebook (or any other internet-based social network), without a parent or responsible, trusted adult present.

Five ways to help your child manage Facebook

1. Start by signing up your own Facebook account, work out how to make a few friends and spend a couple of hours navigating your way around. In fact, why not start with the new School A to Z Facebook pages where you can tell us what information you need to help your child succeed at school.
2. Find the privacy settings in the drop down menu by clicking on 'Account' in the top right hand corner on the page. Facebook organises privacy settings into 'Everyone', 'Friends of friends', 'Friends only' and 'Customise', which can restrict access to an individual or small group.
3. Search for your child online yourself. You may find that their profile information including their name, photo, and a list of names and photos of all their friends can be accessed by anyone with a computer.
4. Then, ask your child to show you how their privacy settings are configured and find out whether they understand them.
5. Also ask them to show you how to block someone, how to refuse a friend request from a stranger and how to un-tag themselves from other people's photos; that is, take their searchable name off an image.

Parent Community Liaison Officer Update

Thank you to those parents who attended the parent teacher interviews over the last two weeks. It is always good to improve the understanding between the teacher and yourself on the expected commitment your child makes in the classroom. Communication with your children’s teachers does not need to stop here. Teachers are always happy to talk to parents about any concerns you may have, if you call the school office they can put you in touch with any of our staff.

I can confirm that we are organising for an online booking system, for 2015. Those that do not have online access are still able to book in with teachers through your child.

Early next term there will be a parent information session for Years 7 and 8 about how teachers use technology in the classroom in different subject areas.

The school beautification project is progressing well. We have had many families purchasing the native plants to be planted around the school and our planting helper list is slowly growing.

There will also be a fundraiser event “An Afternoon of Glamour” on 25th October for females of all ages to come along and get a little pampering with all profits going to the school. I can’t think of a better excuse myself…

If you can donate any of your time to the school beautification project, the afternoon of glamour, the antique fair or any other fundraising events, please let me know.

Rebecca Lewis
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Rebecca Lewis
Outstanding performance by Armidale High School Tournament of the Minds and Da Vinci Decathlon teams in the recent competitions held at Armidale Public School and The Armidale School.

Teams are judged on their creativity, presentation skills and the degree to which they meet the stated criteria for their area of interest. Congratulations go to all teams who performed so creditably in both competitions.

Mr McKenzie embarked on a very strategic and well-coordinated approach enabling Armidale High School’s Tournament of the Minds teams to refine their skills and create presentations in the areas of Engineering, Applied Technology, Social Sciences, Language Literature, Maths Engineering and Maths Engineering 2. Our teams for Maths Engineering (1) comprising Luke Logan-Clarke, Eli Ward, Alyssa Nicoll, Ben Ridges, Luke Shirlaw, Sam Watson and Riya Thapa, and Applied Technology team with Riley Doak, Grace Shorts, Alex Elder, Jesse Streeting, Arnold Drielsma and Olivia Abbo, won in their respective sections of the competition, while the Language and Literature team with Grace Paris, Emily Dobos, Brendon Thomas, Rhoie Collins, Annie Worthing and Zia Single, came second in their section. Congratulations go to our students who quietly and diligently dedicated their time to solving their respective ‘problem’ or ‘challenge’ with great creativity and determination. Well done to all participants and a special thank you to Mr McKenzie for his dedication and coordination of our teams for this very successful outcome.

The Da Vinci Decathlon teams also experienced success against some very determined competition from many schools across the region. The talents of Year 7, under the tutelage of Mrs Rolfe, achieved first place in their section, and Year 8 achieved third place. Mr Lord and Mrs Rolfe thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of supporting the Year 7 and 8 teams as well as the collaborative evaluation process with colleagues that followed each presentation. Our teams in Years 8, 9 and 10 performed admirably. The Year 10 Science Team achieved first place, Year 10 Team Art and Poetry were placed 2nd in their section; Year 10 (team 2) Creative Producers were equal 3rd, Year 9 English and Spelling achieved a creditable third place and Year 9 Code Breaking placing equal 2nd. Year 9 General Knowledge achieved 2nd place in their section with the Year 10 Mathematics Team also achieving second place, and finally, Year 10 Team 2 Code Breaking achieved 3rd place in their round. A wonderful effort and testament to the innovative thinking of our students and their staff support. Many thanks go to Mr Bugden, Mrs Cameron and Mrs Moore for their support of the teams and the Da Vinci competition.

Once again, these extra-curricular programs have revealed the breadth of talent of not only Armidale High School students but also the staff who give their time to coordinate and support these students in such competitions.