PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
It has been an extremely busy first half of the term at Armidale High School with many opportunities for students and parents to participate in school initiatives.

Antique Fair
The Armidale Antique and Collectables Fair is the major P&C fundraiser for Armidale High School. For the second consecutive year the fair was held on site in the auditorium and attracted good crowds from Armidale and surrounds. The success of the fair is largely due to the enormous support of parents, students and staff who give up valuable time to help out over the three day event. People volunteered in a variety of ways, from unpacking furniture to making goodies to sell in the kitchen. I would like to make special mention of Jody Brash who took on the massive task of fair coordinator. Jody worked tirelessly in the busy lead up and was on duty for the duration of the fair ensuring that everything ran smoothly. We simply could not have conducted this event without the commitment of Jody and all the other wonderful people who helped out.

Twilight carnival
This year, for the first time, Armidale High School conducted a twilight swimming carnival which was well received by students and staff alike. Despite miserable weather conditions students actively participated by either swimming or offering encouragement from the grandstand. There were some excellent results on the evening and you can read about some of the record breaking swims on page 3. Thank you to the PD/H/PE staff for organising such a successful event and to the parents who were able to come along and offer support.

Year 7 Barbecue
It was wonderful to see so many families at the recent barbecue. Our year 7 students have settled in so well and it is always wonderful to have the opportunity to meet and greet parents and carers at informal events such as this.
Local Schools, Local Decisions – The reform agenda

Local Schools, Local Decisions is a reform that gives NSW public schools more authority to make local decisions about how best to meet the needs of their students. Decisions are best made by those closest to the people they affect. This means that schools will have a bigger say over how to use their resources for their students. Instead of allocating resources like staff and equipment from the centre using complex formulas, schools will have their own budgets and have the flexibility to allocate resources according to locally determined priorities. A new Resource Allocation Model (RAM) distributes funding in a fairer way. It recognises the different needs of each school, so that students and schools with greater needs get more resources. Armidale High School will be expending the RAM allocation based on needs and priorities as identified through the new school plan and in close consultation with the school community.

Student leader’s afternoon tea

This week Andrew Curry and I had the pleasure of accompanying our School Captain’s at an afternoon tea hosted by PLC. Student leaders from all of the secondary schools in Armidale were in attendance and took this opportunity to mingle with one another and discuss their important roles as school leaders. Our captains are working very hard and are displaying great commitment. This has been demonstrated in a number of ways but notably their visibility at the bus bay of a morning where they have been welcoming students and praising the efforts that many students are making with their uniform.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

Carolyn Lupton, Relieving Principal
Sports Report
This year the rain did not dampen our school spirit and it was so great to see our first twilight swimming carnival go so successfully. It was wonderful to see so many people participating in races and dressing up in an exciting and creative way. Congratulations to all people who placed in events and everyone who had a go!

Swimming Carnival Results
12 Years
Girls    Margaret Conroy
Boys     Andrew Henderson
13 Years
Girls    Lucy Cook
Boys     Jaiden Stevens
14 Years
Girls    Amy Partridge
Boys     Jesse Streeting
15 Years
Girls    Charlotte Russell
Boys     Stuart McLennan
16 Years
Girls    Chloe Maunder
Boys     Luke Logan-Clarke
17 Years
Girls    Holly Tearle
Boys     Matthew Turner

Record Breakers
Amy Partridge
1. 14 Years Girls 50m Freestyle
   Old Record: 31.97 (2001)
   New Record: 31.48
2. 14 Years Girls 50m Butterfly
   Old Record: 35.25 (2001)
   New Record: 34.03

Jesse Streeting
1. 14 Years Boys 50m Backstroke
   Old Record: 35.22 (2001)
   New Record: 33.51
2. 14 Years Boys Freestyle
   Old Record: 29.65 (2001)
   New Record: 28.96

David Cook
1. 14 Years 100m Freestyle
   Old Record: 1.04.97 (1998)
   New Record: 1.03.93

   Chandler    321  Dumaresq  249
   Oxley       463  Salisbury  378

Armidale High School
Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thursday 12th March and
Tuesday 17th March 2015

AHS Library 3.45pm-6.30pm
Booking on-line at www.sobs.com.au
1. Log onto www.sobs.com.au
2. Click on Parent/Teacher Interviews Bookings icon.
3. On left hand side click Staff/Parent Access.
4. Keyword Armidale then select Armidale High from list
5. Click Parent Access on the left hand side.
6. Enter your email address.
7. Enter name and contact number.
8. Enter student details.
10. A screen will bring up all your child’s teachers with available times.
    Select suitable available times. (scroll down for Tuesday)
11. Print or email to yourself the designated times of interviews. Alternatively write them on the list below.

1. Interviews are of 5 minutes duration. Bookings should be at least 10 minutes apart.
2. The online booking will be made available on Monday 2nd March and will close at 2pm 17th March 2015.
3. If you are unable to access the internet to make bookings please have your child see their teachers who will allocate a time and write this down or email parents.
   Alternatively contact your child’s Year Advisor on 6776 7466.

If you have any concern regarding the booking process please contact Mr Tim Vaughan (Head Teacher Administration) on 6776 7466.
P & C Report No. 2
What a sensational weekend we had at the FAIR! A huge thank you to ALL the parent volunteers for manning the door, unloading stuff, loading stuff, baking delicious stuff, working the kitchen, making and placing signs and graceful flags, selling raffle tickets and so much more. I want to mention you all by name and I will as soon as I find my extensive list. Meanwhile, be assured your efforts were worth it and the 2015 Antique Fair was exceptional.

However, list or no list we are amazed at the mammoth effort put into this event by one, Jody Brash! Jody worked before, during and after the fair. She was there every day, all day; dealing with problems big and small and making everyone feel welcome.

Special mention must also be made of Roger Horton, who together with Jodie did everything from cleaning to security. Thank you again, parents, students, friends relatives and teachers for making a rainy weekend in February so much fun.

Fiona Xeros
President AHS P&C

Teachers Mutual Bank School Sport Award
Teachers Mutual Bank is proud to announce Stephen Bartolo “Bart” as the recipient of a Teachers Mutual Bank School Sport Teacher Recognition Award. One teacher will be recognised in each issue of the Schools Sport Unit e-newsletter, and will receive a $100 gift card and a Teachers Mutual Bank prize pack.

Over a number of years, “Bart” has made a wonderful contribution to Armidale High School across a wide range of sports. “Bart’s” approach to school sport is highly valued. His passion and knowledge of various sports has been invaluable and he has promoted significant learning opportunities for students.

He has fulfilled many roles and responsibilities in demonstrating his commitment to promoting the ethos of NSW CHS Sport. Over an extended period he has made a wonderful contribution to Armidale High School across a wide range of sports. “Bart’s” approach to school sport is highly valued. His passion and knowledge of various sports has been invaluable and he has promoted significant learning opportunities for students.

For many years “Bart” has coached teams in a range of sports including Basketball, Cricket, Soccer, Table Tennis and Volleyball. He also made many trips to Coolah for the North West Cross country trials as manager of the school’s cross country team.

His successes have included Coaching U/15 and Open Boys Basketball teams to numerous State Finals. His Open Girls Soccer team and Boys Volleyball teams have also made it to the final 8 in the state. This requires a great deal of personal commitment and the students have reaped the rewards.

As a highly valued member of the New England Zone Sports Committee, “Bart’s” exceptional personal traits and professional integrity are well documented.

Excellent sportsmanship between competitors is always fostered by “Bart” and he nurtures the best in all. All the students he has coaches have benefited from his expertise and passion.

“Bart” has excellent rapport with students, staff and parents. His relentless effort and professionalism has raised the profile of school sport across all sectors and North West Region is extremely fortunate to have someone of his dedication.
HSIE FACULTY NEWS

The Australia-Malaysia BRIDGE School Partnerships Project
Armidale High School has been successful in being chosen as a school to participate in the Australian-Malaysia Bridge Program 2015. This project is funded by the Australia-Malaysia Institute, which is part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Congratulations to Mrs Moore who is the teacher who will be engaging in this project on behalf of AHS. She will travel to Kuala Lumpur during the April school holidays for training and to meet up with our Malaysian partner teacher and undertake a 7 day homestay and school visit. In June, the Malaysian partner teacher will visit our school for 7 days.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all students at AHS to actively engage with an Asian partner school to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the region in which we live. In line with the Australian Curriculum, engaging with Asia is a priority area across all subject areas. It is envisaged that through the use of technology, our students will be able to participate in real time communicative tasks with our partnership school students, to deepen their knowledge on a range of topics. We eagerly await this project beginning and look forward to learning more about Malaysia and interacting with teenagers from another country close to us!

French News
Students in Year 7 have been learning about introducing themselves in French and making videos to present to their parents. Seniors are enjoying developing their language skills to a higher level by viewing interviews in French and listening to conversations about everyday life. We are looking forward to the French Film Festival later in the term.

German News
Senior German students enjoyed an in-country experience during the Christmas holidays. It was a great opportunity to immerse in German culture. Junior students are also enjoying their language learning experience in a variety of classroom activities.

Year 9 Aboriginal Studies
The class have been learning about the significance of the 1965 Freedom Rides. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of this important and unprecedented historical occasion. The students have been following the route of the participants through the New England and North West area and investigating the impact of this event in the changing rights and freedoms of Aboriginal Australians. The class is also looking forward to the 'AHS Making History' project that they will complete in class with the help of a grant from the Norman Catts Trust. The trust will provide resources to construct a 'History Wall' to share experiences and raise awareness of Aboriginal people and culture in the Armidale area. Students will have the opportunity to talk with Elders and develop a visual representation of our local history.

Japanese News
Students have been learning about various February festivals in Japan this month. Setsubun is the bean throwing festival (Feb 3rd) where people clean their house and chase out the “bad luck” and welcome in health and happiness. Japanese dad’s usually wear an “oni” mask and the kids throw soy beans at him to chase out the “bad”. People then eat the same number of soy beans as their age to ensure good health for the year. We also learnt about BARENTAIN DEI (Valentine’s Day) where WOMEN give MEN chocolate! There is “love” chocolate and “obligatory” chocolate (given to relatives, work mates, class mates etc). Then the MEN have to give cookies and white chocolate back to WOMEN on “White Day” (March 14th).

Everyone has been very interested in learning about Japanese Culture and have started the year studying Japanese earnestly! GANBATTE KUDASAI - keep giving your best effort (*o*) /
Mock Trial begins again!
Year 11 Legal Studies are busy preparing for the 2015 round of the NSW Law Society Mock Trial Competition. This competition involves students taking on the roles of barristers, solicitors, court officials and witnesses and preparing one side of a legal case. This case is then presented to a volunteer magistrate who will decide which team has prepared the strongest argument coupled with the best advocacy skills. This first round of this competition is to be played against NEGS in the coming weeks.

Year 12 Business and Legal Studies Excursion
Next week approximately 28 students currently studying HSC Business Studies and Legal Studies will travel to Sydney for an excursion to strengthen their understanding of concepts they are currently learning. This excursion gives the students the opportunity to learn about relevant marketing and operations case studies in the Business Studies course as well as view the NSW Supreme Court and speak with representatives from the Australian Human Rights Commission for the Legal Studies course.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES IN HSEE/LANGUAGE

WE WANT YOU!
We are going to Europe! Are you????
Armidale High School study tour to Italy, Belgium and France April 2016
Deposits due 3 March 2015.
See Mr Partridge or Mrs Cameron if you need more information

How about Japan!!!!!!
Japan Trip September 2016
Students in Years 8 and 9 2015 start saving now.
Mrs Moore will publish further information soon!

English Faculty Report
Competitions
The Whitlam Institute 'What Matters?' Writing Competition is open now to all students in 7-12. This is a great way for student to extend themselves and develop writing skills. There are cash prizes. CLOSING DATE Wednesday 6 May 2015. See the Whitlam Institute website for full details and the application form: http://www.whitlam.org/the_program/what_matters_writing_competition

Selective Classes Debating and Public Speaking
The school participates in the state debating competition and may enter one team in each Year group: 7, 8, 9, 10. Up to two speakers may also participate in the Rotary Public Speaking Competition and The Plain English Speaking Competition (both for students 15 years or older: Years 10, 11, 12). Expressions of interest are invited initially from the selective and English Advanced classes but may be extended to other classes according to interest. A competitive selection process may be required. Students should see their class teacher.

Technology
Students in Years 9 and 10 should now be equipped with laptops or appropriate tablets as part of the AHS Bring Your Own Device Program (BYOD). English Teachers are keen to integrate this technology and will use the school Moodle site to manage their course work and will explore
opportunities presented by using Google Apps and Office 365. Please ensure your child charges their device each night and brings it to lessons each day.

**Diagnostic Testing**

Students in Years 7-10 began their English studies with short program of diagnostic testing in language conventions and spelling. This information will enable class teachers to create individualised Word Work programs and to develop skills and understandings to a higher level.

**Teaching and learning**

**Year 7**

Their first unit of study is *Landscapes of the Mind*. This unit engages students in the study of a variety of poems and the associated language devices and techniques that poets use to create vivid images for the reader. Students are currently using this poetry focus as a means for developing their narrative writing. This forms the focus of their first formal assessment task that will be due next week. Teachers of Year 7 are looking forward to reading the work of their students after a very intensive introduction to the world of poetry and narrative writing.

**Year 8**

The unit on Imagery is well underway, with students submitting their poems for assessment this week. Teachers will focus next on narrative writing by exploring myths and legends from various cultures and times. The latter part of this term will strengthen creative writing skills, building on knowledge of the techniques writers use to create evocative imagery.

**Year 9**

Through the concept ‘Emotions’ students have been involved in the exploration of poetry, and have chosen a specific poem as a springboard for their first assessment task - a piece of narrative writing - which should have been submitted this week. Next they will move on to a range of persuasive texts, leading towards their second task, the preparation and delivery of a formal speech.

**Year 10**

Students have been consolidating their understanding of visual language and the ways composers of a range of texts position readers and viewers to think, feel or understand. The key concept being explored this term is Truth and Beauty and students will be expected to present their evidence of learning in a formal class speech in week 9 this term. Classes are also studying one of a range of concept-related novels, including; Animal Farm, The Pearl, Of Mice and Men or Falling from Grace.

**Science Faculty News**

The Science faculty has started 2015 with capacity classes in our senior science subjects. It is exciting to see our students undertaking these subjects at a time when scientific discoveries are making such significant contributions to our knowledge of the universe.

Last year we said farewell to our Head Teacher, Mr Graham Hemmings. Mr Hemmings has retired and is now enjoying some very cold weather and some incredible skiing in Canada. I look forward to working with my colleagues in my new role as Head Teacher. We also welcome Mr Tobie White to our faculty this year and it is wonderful to have such an enthusiastic and committed teacher in our team.

It was with great pleasure that we were able to welcome back a former student of Armidale High School to speak to our Year 12 Science students as part of the Band 6 Assembly. Dr Rose Ahlefeldt achieved her HSC at AHS in 2003 and has since gone on to study Physics at ANU in Canberra. She achieved her PhD, has recently been working in France and has also been awarded a Fullbright scholarship to study at Bozemann, Montana from May this year. The Fullbright Scholarship is one of the most prestigious educational scholarships in the world. It is fabulous for our students to see an example of the opportunities that can be opened up to them beyond school.

In her address to all the senior students and to the Year 12 students, Rose emphasized the importance for students to take responsibility for their learning and to establish a good study routine early. She also encouraged the students to ask questions of their teachers and make sure they understood the material they were covering in class. We would encourage all our students to take this very good advice on board and remind them that as teachers we are here
for our students and asking questions is always encouraged.

On behalf of the Science faculty and the students of Year 11 and 12, I would like to thank Rose for coming back to speak to our students. We wish her every success as she undertakes the next stage of her academic career in the US.

Some exciting activities are coming up in the next few months for all our students. These include the Discovery Days and the Science and Engineering Challenge at UNE and Kickstart Biology and Physics workshops here at AHS. Our Year 11 Biology and Senior Science students are all participating in excursions to Thalgarrah this week and in the next 3 weeks.

We have also joined with the CSIRO Scientists in Schools initiative. We welcomed Mr Tom Barrett (father of Oliver in Year 8) as our CSIRO scientist. Mr Barrett is a senior scientist with the Office of Environment and Heritage and will be working with our Year 11 Biology students and later in the year with some of our Year 9 students on some environmental projects.

I look forward to being able to update you with more details of these and other events planned for our Science students in future newsletters.

Amanda Garvey, HT, Science Faculty

This research project will be extremely valuable in helping us inform our practice and develop and further embed the teaching of literacy across the curriculum.

Amanda Garvey, Literacy Project Coordinator

Under 15’s Zone Netball
The Under 15’s netball girls played a fabulous day of netball on Monday at Lynches Road. The team of Sarah McKinnon, Kiara French, Tyneisha Hoskins, Nikita Hoskins, Mackenzie Wood, Jaynaha Brown, Sam Reynolds, Caitlin Schuman, Serena Traynor, Dimity Tearle played with great sportsmanship and skill.

The girls played 5 games winning four of these, winning 8-6 against Oxley, 31-1 against Glen Innes B, 22-10 against Manilla, and 26-13 against Duval. Unfortunately the girls went down 29-6 against the very strong Glen Innes A side who will now progress to the next level.

The girls are to be congratulated for playing fantastic netball, demonstrating wonderful sportsmanship and exhibiting great team spirit and supporting each other. We would also like to thank the parents for coming to support the girls. Special thanks to Maisie Drielsma who was our umpire for the day, and to their coach AHS Sports Captain Ada Garvey. Ada has several years of both playing and umpiring at state level and ably led the girls through the selection, training and coaching on the day. Congratulations on a great job Ada.

The Open Girls’ netball trials will be on in Inverell in Week 8. Good luck girls.

Photo: Kiara and Tyneisha in action against Duval.
CLOSING DATE FOR EISTEDDFOD ENTRIES COMING UP SOON

Armidale’s Eisteddfod is an important cultural event in the New England calendar that continues a wonderful cultural tradition established in Wales over 900 years ago.

Welsh eisteddfods were festivals, celebrating the performance of literature and music, and this concept holds true to this day. Down the centuries, eisteddfods have evolved to reflect changing societies but they remain an enduring part of Australia’s cultural heritage as important training grounds for emerging entertainers - our musicians, dancers and actors.

The Eisteddfod will run from **MAY 19 to JUNE 14** and during it there are events to cater for all ages and also some non-competitive events for those children who would like to perform and get useful feedback from the adjudicator without the pressure of competition. The closing date for entries is 5pm **FRIDAY MARCH 13**. Please note that no late entries will be accepted and all entries must be submitted on the official eisteddfod forms which can be obtained from your school and at NECOM. The website is temporarily not available.

The Eisteddfod is manned mainly by parents, grandparents and community members – a huge effort done by all! To run well, 6 helpers are required at each 3 hour session and there are 3 sessions each day, so we need your support. Sessions take place morning, afternoon and evenings and also at weekends. The committee is asking all families who enter a child, to also help out at a session. Elizabeth Peach is the Volunteer Co-ordinator and welcomes such offers of help. She can be contacted at 6772 8682 and 0466 278 709. For other enquiries please telephone the President, Sr. Hoskanson 0424 509 309.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM EDWARDS COACHES

Edwards Coaches wishes to advise the students that from the 2nd March 2015, all bus passes must be shown to the driver. If there is no pass shown then the student will need to pay a fare of $1.50.

Anyone who does not have a bus pass issued is to please contact Edwards Coaches on (02) 6772 3116.
Robyn Frost
Edwards Coaches

DEMOTION KNIGHTS FOOTBALL CLUB Inc

PO Box 891, Armidale NSW 2350.
demonknightsfc@northerninlandfootball.net.au

The registration for Demon Knights is open on the 16th February 2015. Go to myfootballclub.com and follow the links to register. Our payment days are the 14th and 21st of March at the Wicklow Courtyard from 10am to 1pm.
The Campus City Canter is on again, on Saturday 14th March. The Canter is a fundraiser for the local SES. Participants walk, jog or run the 5km from the University playing fields into Civic Park, along the cycleway. This is a family event for people of all ages and abilities, from competitive runners to people who just enjoy a healthy morning walk. The entry fee is only $5 per person. (For the safety and convenience of others, dogs and bikes are not allowed.)

For news and updates, find us on Facebook, at https://www.facebook.com/Campus.Canter. You can help spread the word through the community by Liking and sharing the Facebook page.


Take your completed form either to the Armidale Express office in Faulkner St, opposite the town library, or to SportUNE, to pay your $5 entry fee and pick up your number.

The starter’s gun goes at 8.00am. There’ll be warm-up music provided by Sport UNE. Afterwards, you might enjoy the Pancake Breakfast in Civic Park, to the sounds of the Armidale City Band. It’s all part of the Armidale Autumn Festival.

Enquiries: Martin Auster 6772 1041 or 0411249436

City Hockey Club

Field hockey registration for the 2015 winter season is now open. City fields teams in the Friday evening competition. Registration forms available from the Colour Copy Centre, East Mall. PH 0427668915 AH for more details.
All welcome.

Soccer Registration Day

Ex-Services Westside Soccer Club will be holding a registration day for the 2015 season on the following day:

Date: 8th March 2015
Where: Jack Vaillance Oval, Dumaresq Street
Time: 11am-1pm

Or register online at myfootballclub.com.au
Fees: 5-7 year olds=$30, 8-11 year olds=$105, 12-17 year olds=$130
Contact Samantha on 0401654340 for more details

TO ALL PARENTS RE THE OAK LEAF

We are aiming to phase out paper copies of the Oak Leaf by Term 2. If you have not sent in your email address to the school, please do so as soon as possible.