Principal’s News

Formal Assembly
Term one formal assembly will be held on Tuesday 31 March, commencing at 11am. This will be an opportunity for students to be recognised for all of their achievements across the term. There are so many award recipients this term that we will be trialling a SMS notification to let you know that your son or daughter will be receiving an award. This will save a significant amount of paper and postage.

As this is a formal occasion full uniform must be worn, this is even more crucial for those students who will be on stage receiving an award. Your assistance in encouraging the wearing of uniform is greatly appreciated.

Autumn Festival
It was a beautiful day for the recent Armidale Autumn Festival celebrations and pleasing to see so many students and staff walking together behind the Armidale Community of Schools banner. Delegates from Armidale High School marched with pride alongside their fellow public school students. There was so much positive encouragement from the audience which was very well received by students and staff alike. A big thank you to staff and students who marched as part of the parade over the weekend.

Clayton Donovan – Celebrity Chef
On Tuesday 17 March Armidale High School were very fortunate to host Clayton Donovan; Australia’s only Indigenous ‘hatted’ chef. Whilst at the school Clayton addressed a large number of our Aboriginal students about setting themselves goals for the future and daring to dream. This was followed by a master class in the schools hospitality training rooms for the Aboriginal girls barista group. Clayton prepared a delicious meal of Kangaroo San Choy Bow, which incorporated a number of bush tucker ingredients. The girls thoroughly enjoyed working with Clayton and enjoyed the delicious food even more! A big thank you to New England Community Mutual for their ongoing support of Armidale High School and for helping us make this visit a reality.
**Term Two**

Students will return to school on Tuesday 21\textsuperscript{st} April. Monday 20\textsuperscript{th} April will be a staff development day. The teaching staff will be trained in the new Performance Development Framework, Child Protection updates and professional development in integrating ICT into the classroom. These days are very important in ensuring that teachers are supported in their professional learning to achieve ongoing improvement of student outcomes.

Term two is a notoriously cold term so I would ask that families take the time during the holidays to locate or acquire the correct winter uniform items. Jeans are NOT part of the Armidale High School uniform and students are required to wear the school jumper rather than a hoodie or similar top. If you require any clarification of the correct uniform items please do not hesitate to contact the school.

I wish you all a safe and happy Easter and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready to learn in Term Two.

**Carolyn Lupton**  
Relieving Principal

**Welcome to Nelly**

Armidale High School welcomed a new member to its staff this week. ‘Nelly’ will be working in the Special Ed Unit as a facility dog in the near future after some extensive training. This transition project is in conjunction with Tamaruke Australian Labradoodles, Telarah Public School and Drummond Memorial Public School. A Tamaruke Australian Labradoodle has a consistent non-shedding coat, with intelligence, genetic strength and an easy going temperament, the traits required to work with our students. More information can be found at [www.tamarukelabradoodles.com](http://www.tamarukelabradoodles.com)
English Faculty Report

Writing Competition Reminder
The Whitlam Institute 'What Matters?' Writing Competition is still open 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 6th May 2015. See the Whitlam Institute website for full details and the application form: http://www.whitlam.org/the_program/what_matters_writing_competition

ENGLISH and BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD).
Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 should be equipped with laptops or tablets as part of the AHS Bring Your Own Device Program (BYOD). English Teachers are striving to integrate technology and other web 2 tools into their regular class lessons and assessment tasks. A small pool of loan devices are available on a period basis if necessary. Please ensure student devices are charged each night and brought to lessons each day. Technical issues should be raised with Brandon Belford (TSO: Technical Support Officer) as they occur; he is on duty Monday to Wednesday each week in the library or phone 67767433

ENGLISH ASSESSMENT PROCESSES
Student assessment responses are graded A-E and given a mark out of 15. All assessments are tiered and consist of a Core Task and an Extension Task. Selective class students are expected to attempt the extension task on every occasion but this extension task is available to students in all classes. While most students will perform in the ‘C’ Sound range, only those students who attempt the extension task will have the possibility of achieving an ‘A’ or ‘B’ grade in the Excellent or Effective range. Some students will attempt modified tasks in response to their particular learning needs which reflect a Developing ability to demonstrate their learning or skills.

Teaching and Learning in Term 2
Year 7
Students are working on persuasive language skills in the last weeks of term 1 and will present a speech to class for assessment. Next term classes will explore the concept of COURAGE through a novel study resulting in an analytical response.

Year 8
In Term 2 students will explore the concept of CONFLICT by reading play scripts. Assessment will consist of a visual representation and formal speaking/debating tasks.

Year 9
A novel study will be the opportunity to explore CHANGE as a concept in Term 2. Students will explore how writers represent change through characterisation. Students will also read a range of Asian short narratives, write their first essay, and submit a portfolio of writing.

Year 10
The first Term 2 unit is called INTO THE FUTURE and the focus will be on how composers of texts imagine the future. This will build on the textual analysis skills developed in term 1. Students will use technology to create a response in week 5 of the term. The second unit will explore the concept of LIGHT and DARK in a poetry study resulting in an analytical essay in week 10.

Sporting successes
It has been a very busy term on the sporting field and the past two weeks have been no exception. Once again we have had very strong numbers trial for the New England Zone teams.

The following students have been successful in gaining selection:

Rugby League U/15 boys
Jamie Briggs
Roderick Ahoy
Dennis Cutmore
Jake Smith
Milton Smith

Rugby League Opens
Philip Quinlan
John Boy Quinlan
Elijah Rasiga

Girls Soccer
Amber Burton
Maisie Drielsma
Boys Soccer
Hayden Dyall
Tom Burton
Reece Burton
Liam Georkas
Callan MacGregor
Tom Landes

Girls Netball
Tilly Scott
Chloe Maunder

A big congratulations also to Chloe Maunder and Tyneisha Hoskins-Caldwell for making North West Girls Volleyball team.

We are looking forward to seeing continued good results and great participation in Term 2.

Careers News
Year 12 students will again have the opportunity to gain their Responsible Service of Alcohol/Responsible conduct in Gaming certificates early term 2. This is an excellent opportunity for students to get a qualification that will assist in them gaining part time and casual employment after school. Payment is due by the end of term. It is also planned to offer a barista and First Aid courses during terms 2 & 3 respectively.

Year 10 will be undertaking their annual work experience program from the 11-15 May, 2015. This is an excellent opportunity for students to observe and participate in an occupation that interests them whilst at the same time learning valuable employability skills. Students are reminded that this is a compulsory component of Year 10 Careers and forms are due back by the end of Term 1. Extra forms can be found on the school website.

Big W Partnerships
Some students in Year 10 will be selected to undertake a retail training program with Big W during Term 2. Students will be expected to apply and if successful will undertake an 8-10 week training program with Big W one day a week, where they will work in all areas of the store. Some students who have undertaken this training have gained casual employment in the past and some have even been offered School Based Traineeships.

Year 8 Japanese Cooking - oishii (yum!)
This week the first class of Year 8 Japanese made an amazing OBENTO (lunch box) meal. This task was organised by the students and they proved they were able to work collaboratively and cooperate in their self-determined groups to achieve an outstanding result. I was very proud of their work as a whole class from the organising to the cleaning up, it all ran smoothly. Of course they also created excellent flavours and enjoyed their authentic Japanese meal. The class made - sushi (3 kinds), yakisoba (vegetable noodles) and teriyaki chicken :) The other year 8 class will need to work hard to equal this! GANBATTE KUDASAI (good luck!)
Harmony Day 2015

Last Friday we held our Harmony Day assembly to celebrate our diverse student body. At Armidale High School there are over 20 different nationalities and cultures represented in our community. Senior students, Jurmey and Sasha, ran the assembly talking to us about what Australia means to them and their interpretation of the importance of Cultural diversity and Harmony Day.

Some students spent hours filming and putting together a movie which was played to the whole school. Special thanks to Rhiya, Hanna and all the students who gave us their time and opinions for the film. Many students spoke in their own language and also spoke of what they like about Australia. Themes that came through included the freedom, self-expression and opportunities we have in Australia for the future.

Harmony Day is celebrated every year on March 21st.

Congratulations

John-Boy Quinlan has been one of fifty students selected across Australia to represent his school at Canberra for The Work Exposure with Government Program. This program aims to provide to high performing Indigenous students in Years 11 and 12 with a hand-on experience and information about Job opportunities, leading to career pathways into the Australian Government.

John-Boy has had the chance to be accompanied by Dennis Flannery from Principals Australia to undertake experience and placements with Parliamentarians and other Australian Government departments to participate in cultural activities, including visits to the Australian War Memorial and the Australian Defence Force.

John-Boy has expressed that he is grateful for this opportunity and would highly recommend this program to other Aboriginal Students in Years 11 and 12 next year.