Principal’s News

Athletics Carnival
What a wonderful day we had for the athletics carnival this year. The weather was very kind to us which meant that we saw fantastic rates of participation. You will see from the results on the following page that there were some very longstanding records that were broken on the day, which was marvellous.

I would like to congratulate those students who were named age champions but also acknowledge the house captains who do a terrific job of supporting the carnival and encourage (often through the use of sweets) full participation. Thanks must also go to the PE staff who work tirelessly in the lead up to the event and run a very smooth event.

Fundraising for Nepal
Shortly after the devastating earthquakes in Nepal students at Armidale High expressed a desire to do some fundraising to help the many victims of such a tragic event. Jurmey Rinzin,(year 12) rallied the support of her friends (and Mrs Moore) and collectively they have been very successful in raising both awareness and funds. In just over a week $1,200 has been raised through cake stalls and BBQ’s.

It has been decided that the funds raised will go directly into supporting educational initiatives in Nepal and a trust fund will soon be established to support this cause. At next Friday’s assembly we will present members of the Nepalese Armidale community with a cheque for the monies raised thus far.

Students and staff at Armidale High School are always so generous when it comes to supporting communities who are experiencing hardship and this is an excellent example.

Leave Passes
I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that we do NOT accept leave passes for students to leave the school grounds and purchase food from local shops. The Department of Education imposes very strict regulations in terms of duty of care and students should not be leaving the school during the day unless they are being directly supervised by a staff member. I would emphasise the need for students to pack their lunch or bring money to buy their lunch from the school canteen.

I would also ask that if you are aware of appointments your child might have, you contact the office directly via a phone call or send a note with your child. There are increasing numbers of students who are speaking to their parents on mobile phones and thrusting them at office staff and insisting that they speak to their parent or guardian. I will be instructing the office staff not to take these calls. Your assistance with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Carolyn Lupton
Relieving Principal
Athletic carnival results

Age champions

Boys
12 Andrew Henderson
13 Raymond Blair
14 James Briggs
15 Milton Smith
16 Steven Ahoy
17+ Ryan Shaw

Girls
12 Margaret Conroy
13 Canyden Styles
14 Serena Traynor
15 Amber Burton
16 Georgie Cooper
17 Natasha Favotto

Highest Pointscore
Boys - Ryan Shaw
Girls - Amber Burton

Records
James Briggs 14y boys 200m
Old time 26.59s New time 25.55s

Amber Burton 15y girls 100m
Old time 12.65s New time 12.49s

Natasha Favotto 17+ girls
400m old time 1.05.10 new time 1.01.16
3000m old time 12.03.63 new time 11.03.19

The Boys Junior 4 x 100m relay
Old record - Oxley 50.40 New record Salisbury 49.87

House points
Chandler 1009
Dumaresq 482
Oxley 457
Salisbury 627
Science Faculty News Week 4 Term 2
It is hard to believe that we are already about to welcome in Week 5!! It has been a busy and productive time in Science with a number of changes and some exciting activities occurring.

Firstly, we are happy to report that our colleague Arthur Martin is making a steady but good recovery from some fairly extensive surgery in March. We are thinking of him and his family and look forward to continuing to hear good news about his progress.

Our Year 12 students in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Senior Science have all completed their half-yearly examinations at the end of last term. Some of these students have achieved some very good marks and are on the right track for continued success. For others, they have realized that more effort is required and are putting in place some better revision and study strategies. For all our students preparing for the HSC, I would encourage them to ensure they are asking for help from their teachers if needed, and making the most of all opportunities to question, revise and study. The best form of preparation is to use the syllabus and past examination papers to study.

The Science faculty hosted Year 12 Physics and Biology workshops this week. The workshops were part of the University of Sydney’s Kickstart on the Road program and consisted of a series of activities to support and reinforce HSC Syllabus modules in the Biology and Physics courses. Students from Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Nambucca, Macksville, Gunnedah, Narrabri and others, as well as our own Year 12 students participated. It has been fabulous to be able to provide such excellent learning opportunities to our students and these workshops will be a regular fixture on our calendar. We are also urging the University of Sydney to bring their Chemistry workshop next year.

The Year 12 Science students from all courses are actively encouraged to also pursue the opportunities presented by the HSC Seminar in Singleton on the 29th May, and the UNE HSC Booster days on the 1st and 2nd of June. These days will give the students opportunities to meet HSC markers and learn more about preparing for their final exams and participate in activities to consolidate their learning in their chosen courses. Mr Curry and Mr Polson are organising these events for Year 12.

Our Year 11’s are about to complete their Half-Yearly examinations. We encourage them to rise to the challenge of their first round of exams. This is an opportunity for them to gauge their level of commitment and to experience the style of questions found at this level. We wish them well.

Year 10 are now on their second rotation of units and teachers – each unit Year 10 study is based on, and developed, to give them an insight into the areas of study they can pursue when they make their subject choices for Year 11. All year 10 students will also complete a unit where they will develop and conduct an individual research project based on the scientific method. Mr White has already received some excellent projects.

Questacon are coming to Armidale! We will be hosting the Questacon science circus at Armidale High School on the 9th of June. Years 7, 8 and 9 will all be participating in this event. It will be a fantastic session of hands-on, exciting Science activities with all students able to be part of the Questacon experience. These sessions will cost students $5.00 which will be collected on the day. Notes and details about these events will be sent home in the next 2 weeks. It will be a fun and exciting learning opportunity!

Amanda Garvey
Head Teacher Science

PIANO TUITION
Available at Armidale high School from
Richard Smith, AMusA.
General instruction and/or Preparation for exams etc.
½ hour $25
Tele: 0427 810 755
Year 11 Hospitality Catering

Students: L to R, Claire Hay, Lauren Selby, Ashley Parker and Amielle Waters.

We were asked by Mrs Smith in Ag to cater for the Prime Lamb Competition which was held at the Exhibition Centre (Showgrounds).

The decorated cakes were a hit. We also sold chocolate chip biscuits, pies and sausage rolls. Thanks must go to Mrs Dyall’s Year 9 and 10 Food Technology classes, who helped make the cakes and chocolate chip biscuits.

Profit from our catering is going towards the Seaworld Work Placement Excursion in November.

Fire & Rescue NSW Open Day 2015

Fire & Rescue NSW is hosting its annual Open Day on Saturday, 30 May 2015 between 10am and 2pm at our Training Centre, 10 Mann St Armidale.

Children and their parents are invited to come along and watch fire safety demonstrations, hop aboard a fire truck, hold a fire hose, enjoy a sausage sizzle and get a fire safety activity booklet while chatting with firefighters about what they do.

This is a fantastic opportunity for children and their parents to meet their local firefighters. Winter is just around the corner and it’s the worst time of the year for house fires, so this is also a great opportunity to learn as much as you can about home fire safety.

Compulsory School Attendance for Parents

What if my child has to be away from school?
On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence. Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.
Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

**Travel**
Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year. In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.

**The importance of arriving on time**
Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

**My child won’t go to school. What should I do?**
You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

**What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?**
It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences
  You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order
  If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court
  School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

**What age can my child leave school?**
All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.