Principal’s News

Year 7 Selective Class Independent Project Showcase

Wednesday night’s showcase was a wonderful example of what can be achieved when you allow one’s imagination to run wild. The theme of the project was ‘flight’ and we had 17 of the Year 7 selective class members deliver presentations that ranged from the Rainbow Shrimp to the evolution of flight or flight. The evening was testament to what can be achieved when students are set an independent task with few conditions or criteria. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of every student who presented their work and all of the teachers that supported them along the way. Particular thanks to the Armidale High School Quality Teaching Committee and Ms Sue McLeod who led this project.

Links to Learning

Our students who attend Links to Learning continue to develop their skills and confidence as a result of their participation in this valuable program. This semester has seen the Stage 5 boys commence their cadetship with the Rural Fire Service and they are currently using their welding skills to construct a car for the RFS to practise their live fire training. The Stage 5 girls have been honing their public speaking skills and working with the wonderful jumping dogs that are synonymous with the BackTrack program.

Reconciliation Week

Reconciliation Week (NRW) is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey; the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation.

Sentral

You may recall that the main fundraiser for the Armidale High School P&C this year was the Antique Fair which raised over $10,000. This year instead of individual staff and faculties approaching the P&C with funding requests we have asked for
their support to implement a new operating system, Sentral. This system will streamline many of our administrative processes and enhance the accuracy of our data. The implementation phase of this system will involve roll marking and student welfare functions, and it is hoped that by the end of the year the parent portal will be operational. The parent portal will provide parents with 24/7 access to their child’s data. Parents can log in to access their child's report, attendance information and welfare details as well as updating family contact details. We thank the Armidale High P&C for their generous financial support of this initiative.

Carolyn Lupton
Relieving Principal

**Debating at AHS**

**7th May 2015**

Glen Innes High successfully defended the topic that school sport should be banned in the recent debate held at GIH. The Armidale High A team impressed the adjudicators with their polished performance, but last year's state finalists were able to present more comprehensive arguments. The AHS team were Georgia Cooper, Riya Thapa, Sai Abbaraju and Fitz Hadley. The next debate will be against the Armidale High B team.

**15th May 2015**

The Plain English Speaking Competition was held recently at Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School where students from seven Tamworth and Armidale schools competed in the final. The adjudicator was impressed with the intellect and polish displayed by all the speakers, while the audience enjoyed the idealism, passion and provocativeness displayed.

This demanding competition is organised in two parts of equal value. First, students prepare a 9 minute speech on a topic of their own choice but also speak for 3 minutes on an impromptu topic, on this occasion Poverty and Prosperity.

Violet Gasparre, at very short notice, impressed the audience with the sincerity of her speech on marriage equality; while James Hadley delivered a thoughtful evaluation of the coal seam gas debate. James excelled in his impromptu speech where his confidence, humour and flair with language were very effectively displayed. Violet successfully conquered any nervousness to present her ideas on this topic to the audience. While the final decision was very close in a field of excellence, James Hadley was the winner and a student from Duval High School was the runner-up. He will advance to the state final. Certificates of Participation will be presented at the next formal assembly.

Pictured: Violet Gasparre and James Hadley.
Work Experience 2015
We are in full swing of work experience season with over 90 Year 10 students joining the workforce for a week during the term. The program enables students to witness and participate as an employee in an occupation that they are interested in as a result of study in Year 9. It is hoped that this will help them with subject selections for Year 11. This year saw a wide array of career choices, ranging from architecture to zoology at Taronga Zoo. Nine students undertook a program with NSW Fire and Rescue where they were taken through many training drills such as search and rescue in a simulated burning house, a simulated car accident and fire fighting, to name a few. Students also travelled far and wide with some even going interstate. Career choices such as childcare, vets and Hunter and New England Health were again popular and this year saw a trend towards IT as well, with more students than in the past following this path.

Students will now be working on their Résumés as they can now add many employability skills which they gained as a result of the program.

Students who have not yet organised a placement are reminded that it is never too late and they can go out at a negotiated time this year.

RSA/RCG Training
30 year 12 students have recently completed their Responsible Service of Alcohol and Responsible Conduct in Gaming training which will now enable them to gain employment in licenced premises in the future. The program is delivered by The Armidale Bowling Club manager, Phil Wheaton, and is delivered over 2 days both at school and at the club.

Learning Support
Did you know that Armidale High has a homework centre running every Monday afternoon from 3.30pm to 5.00pm? The homework centre is a great place for your child to catch up on school work, homework and assignments or to get assistance completing N awards. This is such a good opportunity for ANY student as teaching staff operate the centre and are there to assist and support your child. The homework centre offers afternoon tea to all students who attend; a weekly prize and a free ride home on the Armidale High School bus to
those who live within the Armidale town boundaries. Parental consent is required for the bus travel. Permission notes can be obtained from the learning centre or online from Armidale High School website or app.

We are currently reviewing the way we run the centre and are about to start intensive literacy and numeracy groups for students requiring assistance in Years 7-10. These groups will change each term and will concentrate on the basic literacy and numeracy skills required in everyday life.

The learning centre is also excited to be starting a lunch time games room on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday where students can come and play cards/board games or just pop in and get some assistance with homework or assignments.

Open Boys’ Football
Armidale High school Open Boys’ Football team defeated Narrabri 7-0 at Doody Park last week. The Armidale High midfield dominated from the outset and created many opportunities for the outstanding attack from the strikers up front. The defence was strong all game and prevented any attacking raids from the Narrabri players. AHS now moves on to play either Tenterfield HS or Oxley HS in the Regional Final. Goal scorers were Karn Miller x 3, Reece Burton x 2, Tom Landes and Liam Georkas.

7 Players from this side also went to Cromer in Sydney to represent North West in the Combined High Schools State Football Carnival this week. All players represented Armidale High School and North West region with pride and distinction. Players were Reece Burton, Hayden Dyall, Nick Davies, Tom Landes, Callan MacGregor, Liam Georkas and Tom Burton. Congratulations to all players on their efforts.

Armidale High's Learning Centre
Did you also know that we have a learning centre and Learning and Support Teachers (LAST) who work in the learning centre? These teachers are able to apply for special provisions for students with learning difficulties, mental health problems, hearing or vision issues during examination periods including NAPLAN and the HSC. Please feel free to contact the school should you feel your child requires some type of examination provision.

The Questacon Science Circus is coming to Armidale High School!
Tuesday 9 June
All Year 7, 8 and 9
$5.00 per student collected on the day.
Shake a Leg

This year, ten Aboriginal girls from Years 7-10 have been working with Mandy Cutmore from Community Health to develop their self-awareness, self-esteem, fitness and general knowledge about living a healthy lifestyle through the ‘Shake a Leg’ program. This term, to further develop the program the girls are working with Jamie Lovelock to build on their fitness and self-confidence through self-defence classes. All the girls involved are enjoying the program immensely with tears of laughter coming from the students during the program.

Tennis Results

Boys Zone Knockout.

Our boys’ team, Sam Robinson, Tom Smith, Danny Chandler and Dex Hewitt, were narrowly defeated by Duval High School 33 games to 37. The boys played extremely well, with many close games and three tie breakers.

Boys and girls Zone Selections are to be held at Armidale Courts, Friday 5th June. Any students interested please make sure you have received information and permission notes from Mrs Teege if you wish to attend the day.

Guy's and Doll's

Guys and Dolls, a musical from the golden age of Broadway featuring the students of Duval High School dancing, singing, and acting as gangsters, night club dancers, and salvation army officers in a classic romantic comedy for the ages.

June 16, 7pm
June 17, 12.30pm and 7pm
June 19, 7pm

UNE Arts Theatre
Tickets $20, Student / Concession $15
Tickets available from Duval High School office
DEPARTMENT
Traditionally, Term 2 has always been a busy time for AHS Music Department. The term started with a choir trip to Bellingen, where students came together with the school choirs of Bellingen, Coffs Harbour Senior Campus and Woolgoolga. The day was spent rehearsing the choral music for “In Concert”, a showcase of all the State Schools Ensembles and Choirs held in Sydney during May. Although the day’s forecast of “heavy rain and possible flooding as the day progresses”, had us all a little worried, we were fortunate that the rains were heaviest on the coast and held off until we were on our way home to Armidale. To the delight of the students, we were treated to some spectacular waterfalls as we travelled up the Dorrigo Mountain, just adding to our wonderful day of music making.

More lunchtime rehearsals and individual home practise meant that we were soon ready for our trip to Sydney for “In Concert”. On Saturday the 16th of May, 12 members of the AHS Choir went on a trip to Sydney to perform in the New South Wales State Schools Showcase of music known as “In Concert”. Our choir was a part of the massed choir made up of over 700 students from public schools across NSW. We performed 4 large works of traditional Choral repertoire accompanied by the State Schools Symphony Orchestra, State Schools Wind Orchestra and State Schools Stage Band in the beautiful Sydney Town Hall. This year we were very privileged to work with the well-known singer/songwriter Lior, singing arrangements of 2 of his songs; “Safety of Distance” and “This Old Love”.

On Sunday, after a walk around the “Rocks Markets”, the students caught the ferry to Manly for a meal of fish and chips (in competition with some very persistent seagulls). On our return to the CBD, we hastily got changed and headed to the Capitol Theatre to watch the professional production of Les Misérables. This was an added bonus of our Sydney Trip this year and one that will be remembered by us all for many years to come. As well as watching the amazing performance of Les Mis, students also got the special privilege of a backstage tour with one of the cast members Robert Macdougall.
Monday, was a day full of rehearsals for the “In Concert” performance that night. After months of rehearsing in individual schools, it is amazing how all these students come together and with just one day’s rehearsal, can assemble such a wonderful showcase of music in just one day. “In Concert” was an incredible performance and a wonderful showcase of the talent in our public schools across the state, aided this year by the beautiful voice of Lior. Another memorable experience for all!! (Sam Robertson –Yr11)

The Eisteddfod is in full swing again this term. Already many students have participated in individual events with over 2 weeks of competition still to go.

Shae Leske in Year 12 won her composition section with a very rhythmic and adventurous piece for treble recorder. Her composition was also chosen as the most Outstanding Composition for the Eisteddfod of 2015, with the adjudicator suggesting she quickly publish it and makes it available to as many recorder players as she can.

Coming up in the next few weeks:

**Thurs 4th June:** String Group - 1pm NECOM  
**Thurs 11th June:** Class Ensembles - NECOM  
9am: 8U1 Music Class  
10am: Year 9 & 10 Elective Music classes  
11am: Year 11 & 12 Elective Music Classes

The Eisteddfod Gala Concert will be held on Sunday 14th June, 2pm at Old Teachers College Auditorium: Family $12.

Any students with individual Eisteddfod results from their section please let the music department know.

AND

Parents note that if your child is away at the Eisteddfod please let the office know, so it can be appropriately covered.

On Thursday 28th May, AHS String Quartet played for Autumn Lodge’s “Biggest Morning Tea”. They played a selection of songs from musicals much to the delight of the residents of the lodge.

Picture – AHS Quartet

**WINTER WARMER PIE DRIVE**

**Europe Study Tour Fundraiser – April 2016**

Please see Armidale High School - skool bag ap for details, or contact the front office.