Principal’s Report

This week we welcomed Rohaiza Binti Tapsir from Sekolah Tu Fatimah High School in Johor Bahru in Malaysia. Rohaiza is a secondary school chemistry teacher and is visiting our school this week as part of the Australia-Malaysia Bridge Project funded by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and sponsored by Asia Education Foundation. The project aims to promote intercultural understanding between schools in Australia and Malaysia and Armidale High School is one of thirty schools involved. Mrs Moore visited Rohaiza’s school in the last holidays. The opportunity to share teaching ideas and ways to use technology in the classroom are some of the professional learning opportunities arising from the project. Rohaiza has been visiting classes and talking to students in Society and Culture about her school and Malaysia’s culture.

Reports

The school is currently finalising semester reports and hoping to send reports home with students by the end of the term. These reports are an important part of our reporting student progress to parents and complement our parent teacher evening. Please read them carefully, discuss them with your child and if you have any concerns or questions please don’t hesitate to contact the school. I would like to thank Mr Lord and Mrs Croft for their work in compiling the reports and ensuring that a high standard of accuracy in reporting is maintained.

Inverell Visit

Next Friday 19th June is our annual sporting visit to Inverell High School. This year Inverell will host the event and we are hoping to send over some strong teams to defend the trophy we won last year. Students selected their sports on Wednesday and have been given permission notes which need to be handed to the school office by next Tuesday along with the $20 excursion fee.

Speed Ball

Year 11 Fitness students have been organising Speed Ball competitions in the Den at lunchtime over the last two weeks. Speed Ball is a fast moving game which uses elements of Football, AFL, Rugby and Netball. Competition between students has been intense particularly in the Year 8 games I witnessed during the week. Over eighty Year 8 students were involved in various games and it was good to see students spending their lunchtimes engaged in this positive activity. Other year groups will be participating in Speed Ball over the next few days.

Carolyn Lupton
Relieving Principal

Mathematics at AHS

It continues to be busy in the Mathematics Faculty this year. Last month, eight promising mathematicians attended the annual Year 8 Maths Day, run by the New England Mathematics Association and held at Lazenby Hall, UNE. They formed two teams of four, working on a variety of problem-solving activities in competition with teams from many other schools across the region. See the interesting article on next page.

Some students from Year 7 through to Year 11 have also elected to participate in the 2015 Australian Mathematics Competition, offered every year at AHS and run by the Australian Mathematics Trust.
The competition date this year is July 30. Further details and some practice exercises will be provided as this date approaches. All participating students are encouraged to enjoy this challenge and the sense of accomplishment that comes with giving it your best shot.

We are always proud of our hard-working Year 12 students in Mathematics. They will be attending a Maths Study Day next Thursday, 18th June, presented by the regional network of Maths teachers. Mathematics General 2 students will attend sessions at AHS whilst the venue for Mathematics and Extension 1 students is Duval High School. This day should prove very helpful to Year 12 as they get a little closer to the Trial Examinations in the middle of Term 3. It is also a chance to meet and talk with other students from schools all around the region. Before too long, Year 10 students will be starting to think harder about their course selections for next year. If a student is planning to study Maths in Year 11, the teachers are more than happy to discuss the different options available and would encourage students to raise any questions or concerns they may have about making this choice. MANSW (the Mathematics Association of NSW) has recently issued a useful document designed to guide students (and their parents) who are deciding between Mathematics General and Mathematics. This will be made available to our students but can also be viewed on the MANSW website.

**AHS Student Blood Donation Program**

In 2015, AHS students continue to give of themselves by donating blood with Red Cross. A big, big ‘thank you’ must go to these wonderful people. Last year, we had 49 blood donors – a great effort – let’s see if we can match this in 2015. New donors (16 years and over) are always welcome and anyone interested can speak with Ms Cameron (Maths) to obtain a permission note and organise their appointment. It’s a great, community-minded thing to do with friends. Many AHS teachers are blood donors too and often meet AHS parents, ex-students or ex-teachers at the Donor Centre. (Quiz question: who is the AHS teacher with the most donations? Hint: her surname starts with ‘X’)

Lyn Cameron (Mathematics teacher, Blood Donation Co-ordinator)

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**Year 8 Maths Day**

I’m fourteen years old and I have been at school for 9 of those. Over half my life, and now I’m attending the New England Year Eight Maths Day. Is there something very wrong with me? Where did it go wrong? Am I really looking forward to spending a whole day doing Mathematics, doing problems that someone considered interesting? As I walk into the auditorium, I realise that no matter how misguided this may be, there is a ballroom, a university lecture theatre full of other young misguided students, and they are all having fun. As the day passes and we lock intellectual horns with teams from schools all over the north west of NSW, I realise that I’m quite smart, and that I can use Mathematics to solve fairly interesting problems. Best of all, I discover that generally we are better than most of the other schools in the region.

This is a fictionalised account of what one of the members of our two student teams that attended the Year Eight Maths Day may have thought and felt as they entered Lazenby Hall at the University of New England. The school congratulates the eight students, Felix Rose-Hill, Olivia Abbo, Riley Doak, Louise Grant, Ben Ridges, Annie Worthing, Flynn Christie and Rhoie Collins. Our thanks goes out to Mrs Anne Parnell, a former head teacher and Deputy of Armidale High School, who now works at the University and was the organiser of this and many other of these annual events. One of our teams placed fourth in the region, although they assure us that they were the victims of some psycho-malevolent tactics employed to reduce their points tally in a section where they were dominating (crushing) all opposition. Both teams finished in the top half of the region.
Tournament of the Minds
This fantastic competition starts next term. This year we have over 50 students who have nominated to participate in the competition which will be held in Coffs Harbour. The Tournament has been running for over three decades now and has been instrumental in shaping the skills and capabilities of our best and brightest young students. They are formed into teams that cross year boundaries and have to work together to solve and present their solution to a problem in their chosen area of expertise. In years gone by this has meant having to make a film, write and illustrate a book, build machines to a demanding specification, and solve problems based around real world socio-political issues. The regional competitions qualify to State, Federal and International Competitions.

Tournament of the Minds sounds a little high minded, but after being involved with it at various times for nearly two decades, I can report that students love it and have a lot of fun competing. Working as a team, it promotes key work related skills around solving very specific problems, presentation skills, project management techniques, research processes and the use of creative processes such as writing, visual arts and technology. It is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding extracurricular activities the school can offer.

Music
The Armidale Eisteddfod has now finished and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the many students of Armidale High who contributed to this event either as a soloist, an ensemble member or part of a school ensemble or class group. There were many individual accolades, far too many to mention here, but all students should be proud of their effort and achievements and our congratulations are extended to you all.

Thank you also to the many parents who were at the events supporting the students of AHS and for ensuring that the children were at rehearsals and venues on time for all these events. Your support and encouragement is greatly appreciated.

Some of the school ensembles that achieved success at the Eisteddfod include:

Armidale High String Group — 2nd Place

Class ensembles
Year 12 course 1 Music — 1st place
Year 12 course 2 Music — 3rd Place
Year 11 Music — Highly commended
Year 9 Music — 1st place
Year 8U2 Music — 3rd Place

Cross Country Results
AHS had our school cross country run at Charleston Willows which was a selection trial for Coolah. Congratulations to all the students who ran and the following came first in their age groups:

Age Champions
12G Margaret Conroy
13G Rhoie Collins
14G Karina Kemp
15G Amber Burton
16G Alex Brash
17G Natasha Favotto

13B Ely Sisson
14B Henry Sindel
15B Stuart McLennan
16B Tom Smith & Jonah Skaines

Photo left to right: Rhoie Collins, Karina Kemp, Jonah Skaines, Stuart McLennan, Tom Smith, Margaret Conroy, Ely Sisson, Amber Burton, Henry Sindel, Natasha Favotto and Alex Brash.

The students will represent Armidale High in Coolah on Friday 12th June vying for North West selection.
AHS at Coonabarabran Expo

AHS was represented at Coonabarabran for the North-West Equestrian Expo held between the 28th May and 2nd June 2015. This expo is the biggest horse event outside the Sydney Royal, with around seven hundred horses and riders coming from all over the state to compete.

Our team was Emma Swan, Grace Shortis, Bonnie Cox, Katie Williams and Serena Traynor, with Ada Garvey having to withdraw due to her horse being injured beforehand.

The competition ranged from dressage, show jumping, six bar jumping, polocrosse, horse ball, team-penning, one day eventing, stockhorse challenges, Warrumbungle's way, time trials, rider classes, hacking, pairs and fours and all the normal sporting events like barrel racing, bending and flag racing, keyhole and more, right up to the team barrel race where more than one hundred and fifty teams competed for the top placings.

Along with parents as support, the team and their horses camped at the racecourse as the showground was overflowing beyond its capacity and despite rain, muddy and cold conditions Armidale High team upheld a very high standard bringing home a number of ribbons for their efforts both individual and team. Most impressive was coming third in the Team of 4 event.

Everyone is now looking forward to next year’s event and would encourage anyone else from Armidale High who is interested in joining our equestrian team, no matter what level of experience you have, to contact the team members, Ms Garvey or Ms Lewis for more information.

Grace Shortis show jumping

Katie Williams.

Bonnie Cox in keyhole race.

Katie in time trials.
Congratulations to
Allison Matthews and Kayla Kirkman, both students in Year 10, who have been successful in gaining a position in the Big W partnerships program. They will undertake work experience each Wednesday for the next 8 weeks in store in each section with a potential SBAT position at the end.

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