PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

What a cold start we have experienced so far this term. In just two weeks we have already experienced a couple of snowfalls that have proven to be disruptive to the ordinary operation of the school. There were a number of students who were unable to attend school last Friday owing to the number of road closures in the region. Many thanks to parents who made the school aware of their child’s inability to attend due to the extreme weather.

State Champions

We are so proud of Natasha Favotto and Jesse Streeting who are both the best in their age divisions in NSW in their respective sports of cross country and swimming. Last week Natasha competed in the State cross country finals at Eastern Creek and was a clear winner in the under 17 division, she will now go on to compete in the Nationals that will be held in a month’s time in Melbourne.

Jesse is the state record holder for the 100m backstroke and he broke the existing record with a new time of 1:03 at the NSW short course championships which were held at Olympic Park in the recent school holidays.

Let’s Hang It

This exhibition provides New England/North West students, from Kindergarten to Year 12, the opportunity to take part in a large art prize, be part of the wider community and to have their work hung in an art museum. It attracts approximately 600 entries from over 330 invited regional schools and once again students from Armidale High School excelled.

Lucy Cawood and Challa Gow were both awarded runner up in their divisions and Rachel Cuskelly’s work was recognised with a highly commended.

The works will be on display at NERAM until August 2nd and I would encourage you to make time to see the standard of work produced by students in our region.
Year 6 Information Night
It was a pleasure to welcome so many families to Armidale High on Tuesday night for the first phase of orientation for year 6 students. We were joined by numerous staff, SRC members, the school captains and even Nelly the dog made a guest appearance.

A big thank you to Michael Lord for his organisation of this event and the many staff who gave so willingly of their time to make it such a warm and welcoming occasion.

If you are aware of families with children in year 6 who may have missed this event please encourage them to contact the school to obtain an information package.

C Lupton
Relieving Principal
**Year 9 Selective Class Independent Project Presentation Night**

Throughout Term 2, students in the Year 9 selective class have been working on their Independent Projects. After initially selecting a problem to investigate, students designed and conducted a scientific investigation to find a solution to their problem.

All parents, caregivers and interested community members are invited to attend our presentation evening where students will be presenting the findings from their investigations.

**Date:** Thursday, 30th July  
(Rescheduled from 23rd July due to unforeseen circumstances)

**Time:** 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm  
**Where:** Armidale High School Library

We look forward to seeing you there.  
Mrs Tanya Williams – Class Teacher  
Ms Amanda Garvey - Head Teacher Science

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**English Faculty Report Term 3**

**Trial HSC and Major Works**

It is a busy time for HSC students with deadlines fast approaching for completing Major Works in English Extension 2 and Drama. Study and revision programs should now be in place as students also prepare for the Trial HSC examinations in Weeks 5 and 6. Students in Extension 1 Advanced and Standard English, as well as Drama, should organise and revise their class notes and visit the BOSTES website to view HSC course advice and to access past examination papers and examiners reports. A close dialogue with their teacher should also be maintained in order to maximise preparation, confidence and success.

**Selective Classes Debating and Public Speaking**

Students will continue their participation in public speaking in Term 3. A two-day debating camp in Tamworth in Week 3 will see up to 18 students participating in workshops with experts from the Arts Unit in Sydney, as well as viewing the Regional Debating final. Students in Years 9 and 10 will also participate in both the Rotary and Legacy public speaking competitions.

**Technology**

Students in Years 8, 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.

**Teaching and learning**

All classes in 7-10 have now completed Semester 2 diagnostic testing. Teachers used the Schonell Spelling Test to calculate reading age and a language conventions test to snapshot grammar and punctuation skills; the planning of tailored learning tasks linked to individual needs can now be implemented.

Units of work for each year group are outlined below. Every assessment task includes an option for extension and all students who feel capable should attempt this option. Tasks are always distributed
digitally or as hard copies in advance by the class teacher with marking guidelines.

**Year 7:** The term 3 concept is *Lost and Found* and the text focus will be a close study of Picture Books. Teachers will frame the concept with these focus questions: What makes a good picture book? How do visual images create meaning? Students will complete tasks that build their skills of analysis and will have the option to use technology to compete some responses.

**Year 8:** The term 3 concept is *Into the Wild* and will be a study of depictions of wilderness in texts. Teachers will frame the concept with this focus question: How is wilderness represented in a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts? Students will complete tasks linked to novel or short story study and will deliver a speech for assessment and attempt webpage design.

**Year 9:** The term 3 Concept is *Humour* with a text focus on Shakespearean Comedy (either *Taming of the Shrew* or *Much Ado About Nothing*). Teachers will frame the concept with this focus question: How is humour conveyed in and through texts? Students will complete sustained analytical responses through formal speaking and ICT.

**Year 10:** The term 3 concept is *Choice and Consequences* with a text focus on Shakespearean Tragedy (either *Macbeth* or *Romeo and Juliet*) and short prose. Teachers will frame the concept with this focus question: What are the consequences of choices made by characters in literary texts? Students will complete tasks linked to narrative writing and a formal Speech of analysis.

**The Class of ‘45**
Seventy years on there is still a group of ex-students of Armidale High school meeting for the last time next week in Sydney! This group of students were educated during the years of WWII.

They first met up for a reunion 20 years ago for the 50th year anniversary of finishing their 5th year at AHS. There were 50 in their final year and 42 of the 48 surviving class members met at that time. They must have decided they needed to ‘catch up’ a lot more regularly, as they then met twice a year, until the last couple of years.

Many of the group have made significant contributions in the community- attributing to a large extent, that, this was possible because of the standard of education that they enjoyed at Armidale High School.

This group extended the ‘hand of friendship’ to spouses of former students, and to students of earlier and later year groups, which was greatly appreciated by those who have attended many enjoyable gatherings.

Best wishes to the ‘45 group gathering next week. You will be an inspiration to every AHS reunion group, to try and equal the 70 year mark!

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**Armidale Little Athletics Club**
Free Jumping and Throwing Coaching Sessions
Each Sunday afternoon during Term 3,
3pm at Harris Park

All Welcome

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Let It Snow, Let It Snow.
Year 8 into 9
Information Evening

Armidale High School
School Auditorium
Tuesday 28th July 2015
5.30 pm

All parents and students currently in Year 10 are warmly invited to this important information evening.

Enquiries to: 6776 7466
Email: armidale-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: http://www.armidale-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Year 10 into 11
Information Evening

Armidale High School
School Auditorium
Tuesday 4th August 2015
5.30 pm

All parents and students currently in Year 10 are warmly invited to this important information evening.

Enquiries to: 6776 7466
Email: armidale-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: http://www.armidale-h.schools.nsw.edu.au