PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

It’s been another very busy fortnight at Armidale High School with lots of opportunities for students to showcase their talents. As you read through this week’s newsletter you will see just how many opportunities are provided for students to get involved in an array of extra-curricular activities.

An evening with ACOS
The combined public schools concert which was held on Wednesday night was an absolute credit to all the students and teachers who were involved in this wonderful event. It was a huge program of over 20 items and culminated with 500 students and their teachers performing in the massed choir.
Particular thanks to Mrs Rowena Teege who managed to balance this commitment on top of preparing HSC students for practical examinations and performances at MADness. Also the amazing stage crew from AHS; Lachlan Jones, Isaac Khan, Alex Elder, Danny Chandler and David Cook who are to be commended for their punctuality, commitment and professionalism.

MADness
Last night I had the pleasure of attending the MADness evening which was a treat for the senses. The major work projects for students enrolled in music, art, drama and industrial technology were displayed and once again the high standard of these pieces was appreciated by all.
The significant hours of hard work and determination that go into these projects is a credit to the students but also the dedicated teachers and parents who support them through the process. A big thank you to Fiona Xeros who organised the event and also compered on the evening.

Uniform
In the next week you will receive a letter that will outline some significant changes to the Student Code of Conduct (Department of Education, 2015). The code now covers uniform and emphasises the need for students who are enrolled in public schools to adhere to the school’s uniform code. New measures that Armidale High is adopting to support this initiative will be introduced in term 4.

Carolyn Lupton
Relieving Principal

Jesse Streeting
Jesse attended the National Championships on the weekend. He was the fastest qualifier for the 100m backstroke final, swimming in lane 4, and finished 4th. This is a commendable result and with his qualifying time he is still ranked number 2 in NSW. We eagerly await the results of his next meet in 3 weeks time.
TAS Faculty News
What a term it has been for Home Economics. We have been very busy helping students finish Major Textile Projects, preparing students for exams in Hospitality, Textiles & Design and Exploring Early Childhood as well as catering for a variety of functions for the school and community.

P & C Christmas in July was the first function that we catered for. Years 10, 11 and 12 helped with the cooking both at school and at the Jockey Club. Year 10 and the School Captains served the guests. On the night we provided 100 meals. Katie Williams, Grace Shortis, Mally Saunders. Ashley Waters, Kyah Valler, Rusie Curtis, Sarah McKinnon

Coffee Cakes and Questions provided another opportunity for the Year 10 Food Technology classes to show off their cooking skills.

Week 5 we had the pleasure of making lamingtons with the Japanese students from Inami. I am pretty sure they had never had so much fun with chocolate icing and coconut ever before.

Every year we cater for the Zonta Annual General Meeting at Armidale High School. This year we served 23 guests slow cooked beef with saffron rice and spiced roasted carrots, followed by a lemon yoghurt syrup cake. Year 11 and 12 Hospitality classes provided the catering for this event.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported our catering events, especially Sue Maisey. The money raised will go towards equipment to keep our kitchen up to industry standards and the Seaworld Work Placement Excursion that the Year 11 Hospitality students have the opportunity to participate in.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Rachael Pearce for being appointed
permanently to Armidale High School in the TAS Faculty. Her appointment actually begins at the start of 2016.

Raelene Dyall, Vicki Kelly and Rachael Pearce

Celebration cakes: Year 10 Food Technology

Year 11 Construction

The Year 11 VET Construction class have recently completed their first block of mandatory Work Placement. The boys attended a variety of workplaces including cabinetmakers, electricians, carpenters, transportable home manufacturers, plumbers and saw millers. This a very valuable experience for the VET students as it consolidated what is learned in the classroom and how these skills are transferred to real work situations. Thanks go to the host employers for supporting our students.

ADDA Constructions, Aspen Commercial Interiors, CT Electric, Damien McCann Plumbing, Ernie Selby, Good Wood Projects, Killen Furniture, Marquardt Constructions, New England Electrical, Rice Developments, RossBuild Constructions, Steven Frost Construction, UNIPLAN Group and Zielinski Timbers.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Armidale High School will re-introduce the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme next term after a long hiatus. The introduction will begin with a parent/student information evening in the school library on Tuesday 15th September staring at 5.30pm.

The scheme is designed for young people between the ages of 14 and 25. In 2015 we will open the scheme to students from Years 9-11. Students currently in Year 8 can commence at the start of Term 1, 2016.

The Duke of Ed Scheme helps to enable students to develop practical skills and new friendships and to build a spirit of adventure. It also enables students to build resilience and self-esteem and to take a more active role in the community.

Students who undertake the Duke of Ed scheme have improved employment prospects and have the opportunity to build strong relationships with the
Award Leaders and other strong role models in the community.

The Award Leaders are Mr Tim Channon and Mr Peter Laffan. Ms Amanda Garvey will be an Assistant Leader.

Young Drivers Expo
Last week a group of Year 11 students travelled to Tamworth for the YDE. This program is an annual event sponsored by Tamworth Council. The students attended a number of workshops hosted by the Police, NRMA, RMS, Community Health and the Hospital. There were many driver safety messages presented in a very engaging format which was enjoyed by all in attendance.

What’s been happening at the school farm this term??
It has been a very busy term. Earlier Laurie Smith volunteered his time to shear ours ewes and ram. He educated our senior Primary Industries students in the art of shearing and being a shed hand. Students learnt how to throw a fleece and managed a few long blows shearing our ewes. Since then the ewes have been busy lambing with only a few to go!

Our students have also been very focussed on preparing our steers for competition. We have been very fortunate to have purchased two Hereford steers from Fred and Anne Starr of “Foxforth” Hereford stud, Guyra. Students have been working on their parading and judging skills with some extra tuition from Will Rice, our relieving farm assistant.

Students from all years also had the opportunity to visit AGQUIP last month travelling by bus to Gunnedah. Students visited numerous sites looking at fencing, cattle breeds and innovative technologies for Agricultural enterprises. Students were very well behaved and many thanks must go to Mr Howey for his assistance in driving the bus. Students in Year 8 are busy preparing the vegetable garden for the coming growing season so it continues to be a busy place with great anticipation for the season ahead!
Show your colours for the region’s Rescue Helicopter!
The colours of the rainbow will come alive during the spectacular Show your Colours for the Chopper event to be held at Armidale’s University of New England on Sunday 6th September 2015.

Come along and be covered in a range of powdered colours during the five kilometer fun run and help raise much needed funds for the region’s Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, with 100 per cent of registration fees and proceeds from the day staying in the region.

Sign up your friends and family to run, jog, walk or crawl to show your support for the Rescue Helicopter - especially on Fathers’ Day!

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. Since operations began from the Tamworth base 15 years ago in partnership with NSW Health and the business community, 2,500 people from across the New England and North West regions have received urgent medical treatment.


AHS Aboriginal Debating
As part of Indigenous Literacy Day, the Armidale High School Aboriginal debating squad participated in a workshop last Wednesday at Duval High School with teams from Walcha and Uralla.

This is the first occasion that an aboriginal debating squad has been created in our school and reflects the developing skills and understandings of our aboriginal students at AHS.

Our students enjoyed a series of confidence building debating games followed by a mock debate. This is an exciting development for aboriginal education generally and it is hoped a local Aboriginal debating competition will be established in 2016 to foster leadership and academics.

Pictured left to right:
Jeszie Murray, Steven Ahoy, Dennis Cutmore, Tyneisha Hoskins-Caldwell, Ms Lupton, Joanne Morgan and Jessica Widders.

Special Ed Fundraiser
Two students from the support unit will be washing and cleaning AHS staff cars over the next few weeks as a means of fundraising to assist them to go on the Year 10 school excursion.

The Unit would like to acknowledge Supercheap Auto for donating cleaning products for the boys to carry out the project.
Celebrating NAIDOC Week
This week, Armidale High School united with the local community to celebrate NAIDOC Week. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements. On Monday morning we held an assembly and flag raising ceremony for the whole school to honour and recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians to our country and our society.

On Tuesday, we celebrated with Armidale High’s very own Amazing Race! Just like the TV show, teams raced around the school grounds, completing Indigenous themed challenges. 10 teams of 4 set off on the bottom oval ‘Racing on Sacred Ground’ in bare feet to collect their next clue. It led them to the Arboretum to take a selfie with the ‘Sacred Site’ Mt Duval. Teams then raced back to school to ‘Leave your Mark’ by mixing crushed clay and water to make rock art using their hands at the Learning Centre. The next clue led them west to the soccer oval to be ‘Playing on Sacred Ground’ where teams passed footballs through a target and matched famous Indigenous people to their careers. Teams then hurried east to ‘Make it Fly’ sanding back boomerangs and burning an Australian animal design into the wood. Finally teams completed ‘Ugunda in a Hurry’ transporting water in cups to fill the Cooloman and making a final dash to the finish line!

The winning team of Round One was the Yellow Snow Cones – Daniel Gollop, Jaiden Stevens, Hayden Schultz and Cameron Anderson. Honourable mention goes to the staff team who came in a valiant 2nd place. The winning team of Round Two was the Black and Deadly Team – Kearla, Nikita and Tyneisha Hoskins-Caldwell with Jaynaha Brown. The winners were each given a movie voucher and all participants received prizes as well as a sausage sizzle and an Amazing Race cake to celebrate completing all the challenges. The school was honoured by a visit from the Aboriginal Elders of Uralla and Armidale to watch the proceedings and support our young people.

It was great to see everyone participating in the spirit of NAIDOC, celebrating traditions and culture. A big thank you to the entire Aboriginal Education Committee for all their hard work during the festivities, and Miss Walker for conceiving and coordinating the Amazing Race. The week has been an outstanding success and we look forward to more exciting celebrations next year!
Little Athletics is a uniquely Australian sport for children aged 5-16 years. As the name suggests, it is based upon the sport of athletics (track and field) and the events are specially modified to suit the ages and abilities of children. A wide range of running, jumping, throwing and walking events is conducted. Below are details for advertisement of our local registration days and club info:

Registration Days:
Thursday 10th and Thursday 17th September 2015
4pm-6pm
Harris Park Club House
Cost $80 per child (small discount for families registering 3 or more children)
New registrations: please bring proof of your child's age i.e. Birth Cert, Passport.
Season commences Thursday 8th October 2015
Tee-ball, Mod-ball & Softball Registration

Would you like to get fit while having fun in a friendly team sport?

Come and register for T-Ball, Mod-ball or Softball at Sportspower Armidale on Saturday 5th September 9am to 12noon

The new season will commence on 9th October 2015.
New field - Moran Oval on Kentucky Street
New day - Friday afternoons at the following times:
T-Ball (5-7yrs & 8-10yrs) 4-5pm
Mod-Ball (11-14yrs) 5.15-6.30pm
Senior Social 7s (15+yrs, adults) 6.45-8pm

If you would like to play, coach or assist
Please contact Naomi (0408 022 779) or Amy by email to armidalesoftball@hotmail.com
Letter to parents about VALID Science 10 2015

Dear Parent or Carer

The Validation of Assessment 4 Learning & Individual Development (VALID) test for Year 10 students will be held between Monday 7 September and Friday 11 September 2015. The test takes approximately 80 minutes. The VALID Science 10 test is an interactive, multimedia test completed entirely on a computer.

VALID Science 10 contains multiple choice, short response and extended response tasks that are grouped around real-world issues, including scientific investigations. This is a diagnostic test, with tasks framed on Stage 5 outcomes and essential content in the NSW Science Years K–10 Syllabus. Students will be tested on their:

• knowledge and understanding of science
• understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation
• ability to evaluate evidence, make judgements and think critically
• ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas.

Students also complete a survey about their opinions, attitudes and values.

Since students complete VALID Science 10 on a computer, each student needs to bring headphones or earbuds that plug into a school computer. Earbuds for an iPod or portable player are suitable.

If your child has a disability that needs special consideration or has been educated in English for less than one year, please contact your child’s school to discuss special provisions or possible exemption from the test.

Results of the test will be available during Term 4 2015. Information about each student is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that the right to privacy of all students is maintained. A personal report for each student will be sent to parents/carers to describe the science knowledge and skills demonstrated by the student in the test. There will also be information about how your child’s results compare with overall performance of all students in the test.

The principal of your child’s school is able to provide you with more details about the VALID Science program if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely

Gerry McCloough
Director, School Performance & Improvement
Department of Education