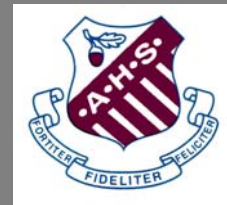


The Oak Leaf

Armidale High School

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Issue 7 – Term 2 – Week 4

Friday 20th May 2011

From the Principal



The photo above was taken during my visit to The Hohenstaufen Gymnasium (HOGY) at Göppingen in the January school holidays. The HOGY hosts Year 11 students on short exchange from our school each year in December and January and we reciprocate when students from that school, and sometimes other schools in the district, travel to Australia to attend school here. The photo shows the presentation of a gift to the Principal of HOGY. On this visit our German teacher, Mrs Jenny Evans, and her family were also staying in Göppingen.

The NAPLAN tests were conducted last week for Years 7 and 9 and I would like to congratulate all students on their punctuality and behaviour. A big thank you also must go to Mrs Lupton and Mrs Fisher for organising this whole week of testing which is undertaken by all students in Yrs 3,5, 7 and 9 in every school in Australia.

I would like to congratulate all students and teams involved in the many great sporting successes and achievements over the last few weeks – they can be found later in this newsletter.

It is great to see so many seniors wearing the new grey vest and so many students wearing school

jumpers – navy blue hoodies for seniors and maroon jumpers for juniors. Just a reminder that the school sells a navy blue waterproof jacket with pockets and the school logo for \$65. Enquiries can be made at the front office. A navy blue jacket has always been part of the school uniform and students should be discouraged from wearing jumpers of other colours.

Many of our students will be participating in the Armidale Eisteddfod over the next month in individual events and school groups in all the creative and performing arts. Thank you to all staff and parents who support our students in this way with rehearsals, transport and a member of the audience.

Anne Matley, **Principal**

Community of Schools

The Armidale Community of Schools is a learning community which includes all 9 public schools in Armidale – 7 primary and both high schools. Principals from all these schools meet each term to plan events and to promote public education in the district. The photo shows 2 students from each of the 9 schools and photos such as this as used in promotional material. Our school was represented by Birralee Cutmore and Sam Foster.



AHS Wetlands



Extensive clearing work and planting of seedlings has just been completed with volunteers – students, staff, parents and community members – assisting the Oxley family to make the Wetlands a viable study area for students again. The Wetlands was initiated in 1997 by Pam Oxley, then a Science teacher at AHS, and the area will soon be dedicated as a memorial to her.

Burnt

Students from AHS attended a performance of a production of 'Burnt'- a play created by Zeal. This brilliant evocation of the struggles of country families in times of drought was thoroughly enjoyed by the 55 students who attended. The mixture of music, comedy, poignant moments and experiences to which we can all relate, made for a valuable experience, especially for those students for whom it was a first encounter with professional theatre.

Year 10 student, Angus Gallagher, found himself in the spotlight in the impromptu role of 'Stevie from the Gun Club'.

Debating

Armidale High's Year 9 debating team of Elise Hay, Ben Hemmings, Ashlee Baines and Natalie Waters acquitted themselves very well against a formidable team from Oxley High in the first round of the Premier's Challenge. The topic at debate was 'that the government should stop supplying laptops to students' and AHS were the negative. The Oxley team included three members who have debated at State level over the past two years; our students learnt a lot from the experience and the Oxley team commented on the closeness of the competition.

Dramatic Successes

Four Armidale High School students have been chosen to attend the NSW State Drama Camp in Sydney. During this time they will attend workshops, theatre and participate in performance activities. Congratulations to **Toby Hemmings, Manon Drielsma (top row), Ingrid Fittler and Callum Agnew (bottom row).**

This is an extraordinary achievement as usually no more than two students are invited from any school.



Open Boys Soccer

Armidale High faced Farrer Agricultural High on the windswept Rologas Fields in Round 2 of their competition. While the bitter conditions suited the home team more, both teams took a little while to warm into the game. The half-time score of 2-0 and the full-time score of 3-0 were evidence of the solid effort of our backs in defence. Goal scorers were Josh Millett, Kirk Burton and Pema Dendup. The next game will be against the winner of the Tamworth High-Gunnedah and will probably be an away game.

Zone and Regional Squash

On May 2nd and May 9th, AHS' squash teams competed in the regional knockouts and trials in Tamworth. Both our teams played very well, displaying the sportsmanship and enthusiasm we expect from AHS students. In the boys event, there was very strong competition, and several schools had seasoned squash players in their teams. Despite not winning, our boys, **Chris McGrath, Toby Knights, Josh Dobos** and **Michael Hanlan** all enjoyed their games and are keen to continue playing the game for its fitness benefits.

The girls were much more successful, winning the regional team competition (so we are in the final 16 for the state), and three members went on to become regional representatives. **Brittany Parker, Fiona Thomson, Katie Kelly** and **Jaime Randell** all won games. Coonabarabran and Quirindi Highs both had a seasoned number 1 player, so Fiona did not win her matches, but the depth of our team won the day. Brittany, Fiona and Jaime are now all very pleased to be representing NW region at Ambarvale at the end of June. Congratulations girls. Our next team match will possibly be against a North Coast team at the start of next term.

We will keep you posted!

Cross Country

Invited students will be running the school cross country at Charleston Willows on Friday 27th May in the afternoon. The first six placed students in each age group for boys and girls will travel to Coolah to compete for North West selection.

Senior students are invited to nominate themselves to participate.

Zone Athletics

Nominations for Zone Athletics are being sought. Students need to register at the PE Office.

Sport Money

Please ensure your child has the correct money for Sport each week.

Timbertown Excursion

Recently the Support Unit enjoyed an excursion to Timbertown which completed their unit on the History of Transport. Everyone enjoyed riding the steam train and the horse and carriage. We also watched the bullock team manoeuvre the steam-driven saw mill. Then we visited the barber shop and houses of the time where we were most interested in the pots under the bed and how small the rooms and buildings were. We all had lunch in the tavern and ice creams from the shop.

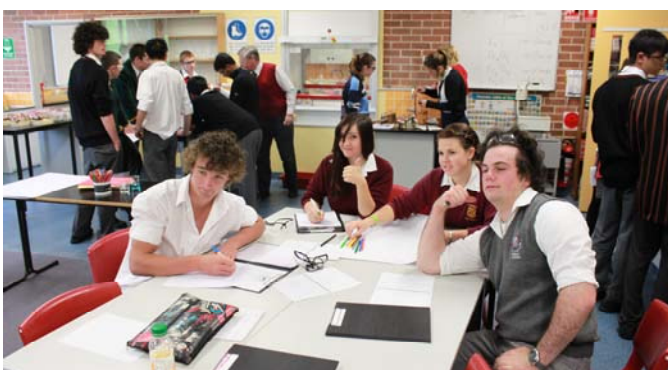


Beyond Band 6 Chemistry

Students from the New England Region and Northern Sydney Region joined together in a program of activities designed to develop their practical skills and focus their HSC preparation.

Students stayed at the Dunmore Lang College at Macquarie University and attended sessions with Chemistry HSC markers and engaged in HSC pracs at Normanhurst Boys High School and St Ives High School. At the Australian National Maritime Museum, students focussed on their Shipwrecks option and attended a Conservation Workshop. Students gained practical experience in a workshop at Macquarie University's Department of Chemistry and Biomolecular Sciences.

The experience was extremely valuable for country students in offering our students experiences that Sydney students take for granted.



Choir

Armidale High School has a long tradition of participating in Choral activities in Sydney as this photograph from the archives of our Choir which was placed second in the Open Section of the City of Sydney Eisteddfod 1940 shows.



Recently 27 of our students performed at the Town Hall in the Combined Choir. A full report will appear in the next Oak Leaf.



Prime Lamb Excursion

Melanie Brash (Year 8), Laura Murray (Year 8), Lucie Yeomans (Year 11) and Caitlin Sillar (Year 8) accompanied Agriculture teacher, Mr Barnett, to Tenterfield recently. It was a very busy day as the 9 lambs from AHS were entered in the heavy weight and medium weight classes; students paraded 3 lambs; Lucie and Melanie were finalists in the junior skins judging and Mr Barnett helped run the junior judging competition.

Kyle O’Hara

For the second year in succession, Kyle O’Hara is enjoying great success in his chosen sport, Rugby Union. Recently he played for New England at the Country Championships and, despite carrying an injury to his knee, was selected to the U-15s team.

Kyle says that the level of technical finesse and skill required is what really attracts him to the game. ‘It’s about total commitment,’ he explains. ‘I’m quite small compared to some of my competition so I have to rely on skills and technique.’

Kyle will attend a Training Camp in Newcastle in the coming weeks.



In this photo Kyle discusses his report with Birralee Cutmore who can be seen in the Community of Schools photo on the first page.

Royal Easter Show Women’s Auxiliary Brunch



Mel Rule, coordinator for the ‘Imagine This’ program, introduces Caitlin Briggs-Andrews, Year 11, to the 150 guests at the Women’s Auxiliary Brunch. Caitlin addressed the group which included the Governor, Dr Marie Bashir, and outlined the activities the girls have been involved in and plans for the future. A full report will be included in the next addition.

The Oak Leaf Email Alert

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in receiving an email alert as the most recent edition of ‘The Oak Leaf’ is posted on the website. If you did not receive the note simply let Mrs Martin (fiona.m.martin @det.nsw.edu.au) in the Office know your child’s name, roll call, and the email address to which you would like the alert sent.

Members of the SRC Executive begin planning for a busy year.

Once again the SRC has set itself a number of challenges: raising money for a range of charities including the local hospital and international relief; fundraising for the school to facilitate school projects; supporting the Inverell visit and representing the school at public ceremonies such as the Anzac Day March.

Important upcoming events include the Inverell visit at the end of this term; the Regional SRC Conference in Wee Waa and the school social at the Golf Club on the 9th June, 2010.



Some members of the current SRC Executive.

Just One Less

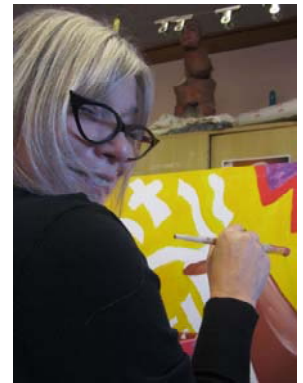
Members of the public have come to recognise the 'Just One Less' slogan associated with the 'Beyond Empathy' Arts and Community Development Organisation.

Isaac Miller, a past Armidale High student, has returned to lend a hand to the Year 10 Art class involved in painting four giant murals for the corridors at the school.

'The project as a whole is a documentary style, multi-media project to heighten awareness of problem drinking, especially binge drinking and especially among young people,' he says.

For students at AHS, involvement in the project began with discussion and student-designed interviews. They were then taught film-making skills and initially considered creating a graffiti wall. This idea developed into the series of murals that are currently being realised in the Art rooms.

Susie Spencer is associated with the Organisation. She says, 'It is so important to create a conversation about the issue; it is a whole community concern.'



Motivational Media Presentation
"What About Me?"

Armidale High School presents: "What About Me?"
A Multimedia Presentation

Life can be so full of and move so quickly. Sometimes, amidst the complexity of life, it can be easy to feel small and insignificant: life can feel like something that has happened to us, rather than something in which we are an active participant. From time to time, all of us need to stop and ask the question "What about me?"

Featuring music by:
Gyroscope, The Temper Trap, Kings of Leon, Justice Crew
and more

Featuring scenes from the latest movies.

When: Thursday 26th May 2011
Where: A.H.S Auditorium.
Times: Period 1 - Years 10, 11 and 12.
Period 2 - Years 7, 8 and 9
Cost: \$3.00 per student paid on entry.

- ✓ All students are expected to attend.
- ✓ The performance is an important part of the PDHPE program for years 7-10.
- ✓ The performance is mandatory for year 11 as part of the Crossroads course.