A Trip to the Theatre
Written by Madeleine Thomson and Miss Warden

This term the Senior IM class have been studying Shakespeare’s ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’. On Thursday 27th March, students had the opportunity to attend a Matinée performance of the play performed by the Tamworth Dramatic Society at the Capitol Theatre.

For some students it was their first time viewing a live stage performance and most were amazed at the talent that the actors have. Students particularly enjoyed the performance of the character Nicholas Bottom and his unfortunate happenings as well as the magic and mystique that Oberon, Titania and the fairies brought to the stage. The class hope to visit the theatre again soon.
As you will be aware, ANZAC Day falls over the holiday break this year, on the Friday before school returns next term. It has been a long tradition for students of Tamworth High School to participate in the march each year. This year’s ANZAC Day activities commence at Bourke Street from 9.45am. As always, students wishing to participate are required to wear full school winter uniform – we encourage as many students as possible to participate and represent the school with pride. Students can be collected by parents at No 1 Oval at the conclusion of the march.

The impending conclusion of Term 1 naturally means that parents and students should be checking the condition of winter uniform in readiness for term 2. The P&C Uniform Shop has plenty of stock to suit all students at very reasonable prices. Details regarding the uniform shop opening hours can be found in this edition of The Buzz or by phoning the school. As the Tamworth High School community has chosen to support a uniform code, students are encouraged to wear uniform each day not only to show pride in their school but also as a safety measure as school uniform allows staff to readily identify and support THS students and recognise people who should not be on school grounds. The support of parents in this regard is greatly appreciated by all.

Since my arrival at THS, I have been getting to know students and staff across the school and carefully observing all aspects of school organisation. As a result of this process, I have commenced the process of making some adjustments to the student welfare structures at THS to create a new Student Wellbeing Team to integrate the existing Learning Support, Welfare and PBL teams to improve the effectiveness of all student welfare support strategies and lead the review of all aspects of student wellbeing at THS. The first major initiative under this reform will be the introduction of a revised anti-bullying policy and related procedures. The aim of this policy will be to directly address the issues of bullying and provides students with a supportive strategy that not only resolves issues of bullying effectively, but also leads to a reduction in the incidence of bullying.

As this is the last edition of The Buzz for term 1, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and relaxing break. Day one next term (Monday April 28) is reserved for Staff Development Day, and as such, students return to school on Tuesday April 29, 2014 (Week 2 - Day 7).

Daniel Wilson
Principal
On occasions your child may need to leave school early, e.g. for an appointment. Please provide your child with a signed, dated note stating the reason and time required for the early leave. This note needs to be given to the staff in SAO PRIOR to roll call. An early leave pass will be processed and available for your child to collect in the first recess break.

This ensures their name is listed on the absentee sheet for the day with the time of departure, and that they are waiting to be picked up at the appointed time.

The Busy Bee Coffee Shop wishes to acknowledge the support of Baker’s Delight, City Plaza for the delicious Focaccias our staff enjoy so much.

Baker’s Delight is also offering a voucher to receive $1 off your next purchase.

The Coffee Shop continues to develop the skills of our students through a range of activities connected to the Coffee Shop such as, cleaning and assisting with cooking. As the students attain a greater skill level they progress to serving and operating the cash register.

The Lioness Ladies, (who offer a mentoring program to the students), come to the Coffee Shop once a week. On these days, the students are learning to take orders, serve the ladies and discuss many things concerning their education and future employment. These skills are all necessary for the student to enter the work force with confidence.

Thank you to all who support the Coffee Shop.

Tamworth High School SRC Leaders for 2014

Left to right top row: Tara Yeo (12), Lucy Davis (11), Paiton Muller (11) Bromley Nankivell (11), Katie Robinson (11) Joel Koppel (12)

Left to right middle row: Keegan Baker (7), Daniel McCulloch (10), Maree Vongphachan (10), Benjamin Crocker (10), Sarah Wood (10) and Ashleigh Price (7)

Left to right bottom row: Giaan White (7), Luke Berman (8), Georgia Martin (9), Sheldon Norris (9), Chloe Allwell (8) and Hollie Taggart (8)

SRC members missing from the photo: Jordann Lavers (7), Joshua McCulloch (8), Georgia Taggart (9), Monique Guy (9), Inthasonne Phanoraj (12) and Madison Cameron-Walker (12)
In May 2014 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools. The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 13 - 15 May 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 13 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 14 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 15 MAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

In 2014, as in previous years, the Writing task will be a single common task for all students. The 2014 Writing test will require students to respond to either a persuasive or narrative Writing prompt. However, the genre of the prompt will not be disclosed prior to the test period. Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 16 May 2014.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustment or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html.
Senior Mathematics Study Groups

Attention Senior Mathematics Students and Parents
All Year 11 and 12 students studying Mathematics are encouraged to come to ACOM at the following times to study.

Week 1 - Thursday - Period 4
Week 2 - Wednesday - Period 4

There will always be a Mathematics staff member

On Tuesday 25th March our small but willing chess team travelled to Muswellbrook High, to compete in the Interschool Chess Challenge.

Our four boys each played seven games, against students from schools with far larger chess programs. Our lack of regular practice looked like being an Achilles heel, when despite being competitive, we lost all four of our opening games. The boys were stung into action, each of them responding with strong victories in the second round.

All our players improved over the next several rounds, as they really began to get into the swing of tournament conditions. We can only speculate just how good our overall result might have been, had we not been prevented from loading up on some Macca’s carbs during the lunch break – Mr Tankard’s car had a flat battery.

In the end, the result was one the school community should feel proud of, as our tiny team placed third, behind the host school, and Scone Grammar. This “podium finish” ensures we will be involved at the next stage – the regional semi finals, in term three. Rory Pletikosic was our highest individual scorer, with Jackson O’Brien, Keegan Tunbridge and EC Flores all highly competitive too, each team member improved a lot, and enjoyed the day.

There will be another chance for the younger players who missed selection to work on their skills, and be a part of a potentially much larger team we will send to another, local Challenge, later in the year.

Mr Dave Tankard
North West Open Waterpolo trials were held this week at Scully Park Pool. There was a strong turn out for both boys and girls squads this year, with players travelling from as far as Armidale and Narrabri seeking selection. Despite the competition, Tamworth High students dominate the squads with seven boys and seven girls making the teams. Training will be high on the agenda over the winter months to ensure a strong performance in the State Carnivals to be held in November.

The boys have the added bonus this year of their carnival being held in Tamworth. The carnival celebrates 125 years of school sport in NSW and will be run by THS coaching legend and North West selector, Ron Surtees. The key message imparted by Ron in his address to the boys after the trials was the importance of attaining a high level of fitness if they are to compete with the Sydney and Newcastle teams.

**Congratulations to the North West Representatives.**

Girls: Katie Robinson, Brittany King, Monique Guy, Nikita Neville, Angel Guy, Giaan White and Cody Neville.

Boys: Jack Pickering, Jackson Crelley, Jay Neville, Josh Guy, Pat Hofman, Isaac Moxon and Dione Lowe.

**Managing screen-time**
Helping kids find the right balance between activities, homework and screen time is a challenge that only gets harder as they grow older. Common sense Media has lots of useful resources to help – from movie and game ratings to articles like this one on setting screen-time limits that are realistic enough that your children will actually follow them. Read the article here: [http://bit.ly/1pBlfink](http://bit.ly/1pBlfink)

**Books to boost brains**
Literacy skills often progress suddenly in leaps and bounds. The secret is to keep kids of all ages reading over the weekends and school holidays. Even 20 minutes a night can make a huge difference to their reading, comprehension and general knowledge. It’s also a great way to settle their minds down before sleep (for adults too!). If your child hasn’t found a book that grabs their imagination, why not try them on a series book from the Premier’s Reading Challenge list? Here are top suggestions for all ages, including young adults: [http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0](http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0)

**Essays due soon?**
Learning how to plan, write and polish an essay is a skill that takes a long time for most people to learn. Different types of essays follow different rules of structure. If your teen is currently working on an essay, you’ll find this video (and the links to fact sheets on the right hand side of the page) really useful in explaining the “how to” of essay writing as it’s taught in NSW public schools: [http://bit.ly/1lji1mZ](http://bit.ly/1lji1mZ)

**SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENT CARDS**
Students 16 years and older travelling on NSW Trains and coaches require the Senior Secondary Student card to get the student 50% discount fare. Students need to see SAO to obtain these travel cards.
The other day at Band Camp!!!!!!

We have survived camp 2014! Sixteen students from THS attended the 2014 New England Regional Band Camp and as usual we had a fantastic time. Students learnt to breathe in the breathing gym with Bernie and to count with Dave the percussionist in some of the most amazing music put before a camp ensemble in years. We achieved a very high standard. When they weren’t playing music, the senior students had study time and the younger students enjoyed recreation time with the camp staff. This ranged from kayaking and mountain bike riding to rock climbing and the Giant swing. Even the food was great (well mostly).

As part of our camp each year, students are selected for the State Wind Band which performs in the Sydney Opera House in August. We have for years enjoyed representation in this band and this year is no different. Congratulations to Amber Minett, Austin McGrane, Libby Plane and Meghan McGrane for gaining nominations for State Winds senior Band.

Open Boys Knockout
The Tamworth High School Open boys suffered an unlucky defeat in their Knockout game against Farrer recently. Feeling the loss of senior player, Nathan Pyne, the boys were not quite themselves in the water on Monday morning, showing some uncharacteristic nerves.

Down in the first quarter, the arrival of the Tamworth High School “Bee” (thanks to Lucy Davis and Tim Hassan) helped greatly to lighten the mood and the boys lifted, going goal for goal with Farrer. It was a great game that went down to the wire, Tamworth High were one point behind with a second to go, but this year unfortunately, there was no fairy tale ending and Jay Neville’s final shot was deflected by the in-form Farrer goalie, Farrer winning the match 6-5.

In terms of sportsmanship, however, it was a gold medal performance by the Tamworth High Boys, lead by Nathan Pyne and Jackson Crelley they were outstanding ambassadors for the school and can hold their heads high (knowing of course, that we will get them next year!!).

The boys would like to thank Sean Hofman, who volunteers hours of time each week training and coaching them and Mrs Scott for her help with their early morning fitness sessions.
National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy
2014 Test Dates

Dear Parent or Carer

The test dates for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test name</th>
<th>Includes</th>
<th>Date of test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions test</td>
<td>Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar</td>
<td>Tuesday 13 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing test</td>
<td>Persuasive writing task</td>
<td>Tuesday 13 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading test</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Wednesday 14 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy test (Years 3 and 5)</td>
<td>Number, Algebra, Function and pattern, Measurement, chance and data, and Space. There is one numeracy test for Years 3 and 5. (No calculator allowed.)</td>
<td>Thursday 15 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy tests (Years 7 and 9)</td>
<td>Number, Algebra, Function and pattern, Measurement, chance and data, and Space. There are two numeracy tests for Years 7 and 9. (Calculator allowed followed by non-calculator.)</td>
<td>Thursday 15 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catch-up day</td>
<td>For students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a particular day.</td>
<td>Friday 16 May 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAFETERIA SPECIALS

FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 7TH APRIL
FRIED RICE $4.80

FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 29TH APRIL
POTATO SCALLOPS $1.00 EACH

ALSO WE NOW HAVE COFFEE
MOCHACCINO CAPPUCCINO FLAT WHITE ESPRESSO $2.50
HOT CHOCOLATE $2.50
SUSHI ALSO ON THE MENU MONDAY TO THURSDAY $3.00

SENIOR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Stage 6 (Years 11 & 12) is a very different learning experience for students and for their families. In order to support families in working together to achieve their students’ goals in Year 11 and 12, Tamworth High School runs the SENIOR SUCCESS PROGRAM.

This program involves each student and their selected support person, a parent; a sister; a brother; an aunt or uncle; a friend or a special teacher or any other special person working together to understand and organise themselves through Years 11 and 12.

The program runs on Tuesday evenings in WEEK 2 and WEEK 4 of each term from 7.30pm till 9.00pm in the Cafeteria at the school. These meetings will look at how to get organised for Year 11 and Year 12 and will help you to set up some support structures at home to achieve your goals.

We hope that you will come along to this evening. Please see Mrs Kate Roser if you have any questions or concerns. You may also call the school on 6765 7888 or email tamworth-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au