WHAT’S BUZZING
TERM 1 Week 5
Date Issued 27/2/2015

March
6th  School Photos - THS Hall
11th  School Photos - Catch-up day - Library
17th  P&C Meeting - 6:30pm - Cafeteria
27th  Vaccinations Yr 7 - 9:30 am - Library
30th - 31st  Yrs 11 & 12 - Crossroads
31st  Parent/Teacher Night - 4:00pm - Cafeteria

April
2nd  Last day of Term 1
3rd  Good Friday
18th  Northern Excursion begins
20th  Staff Return - SDD Term 2
21st  All students return for Term 2
P&C Meeting - 6:30pm - Cafeteria
24th  ANZAC Ceremony (TBC)

May
3rd  Northern Excursion returns
7th  Cross Country - 1pm
11th - 13th  Seaworld - Yrs 11 & 12 Hospitality

PREFECT NEWS

The Prefects have been very active with various events and have more activities planned for this year.

Look inside for the Prefect News report.
Principal’s Report

The year is progressing rapidly, as we reach the half-way mark in the term. Students have settled into a steady routine and many will be receiving the first round of assessment tasks, especially our senior students. We had another fantastic rollup of parents and students for our second Senior Success evening last week in the Library – you may recall from my last report that we have placed a stronger focus upon supporting senior students. There is also a stronger focus upon student attendance, with particular attention being paid to how students utilise their study periods. Parents should have been provided with a copy of the Senior Learning Policy by their child – this document outlines the various responsibilities and procedures in place for students in the senior years at Tamworth High School – please contact the school if you need a copy forwarded to you.

Speaking about assessment, our Year 12 students should be preparing for their half-yearly examinations that are fast approaching in week 9. These examinations are an important milestone for the HSC and will provide students with critical feedback regarding their understanding and examination response performance. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their student is spending a reasonable amount of time each day revising for each subject over a sustained period of time.

You will be aware that the school has brought forward the annual school photo day to Friday March 6th. This will mean that all students will be required to wear their full summer uniform on that day. Sport uniform will be inappropriate for this date. Photo information packs have been distributed and need to be returned to school as per the instructions provided.

As a new element of our student wellbeing program, Tamworth High School will be working with the University of New England sponsored ‘Student-Led Clinic’ to provide student health checks for Year 7 students on Friday March 13th. This important initiative will focus on identifying hearing and sight problems that often inhibit a student's ability to learn and participate in educational activities. Parents of Year 7 students should have received a consent form that needs to be returned to school – please contact the school if you need a consent form or have any enquiries about this initiative.

I have mentioned in several previous editions of ‘The Buzz’ of our increased focus upon attendance. Recently, the NSW Department of Education & Communities revised the guidelines regarding school attendance, with a particular focus upon clarifying the rules regarding leave for holidays during school terms. I have included some information regarding school attendance in this edition and will be providing all parents a full copy of the DEC Attendance Information Sheet with the next edition which will be posted home.

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 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.

Finally, a reminder for the diary – the P&C Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday March 17th commencing at 6.30 pm. This is a great opportunity for parents to become directly involved in the ongoing development of the school – more information is included later in this edition of ‘The Buzz’

Daniel Wilson
Principal

Tamworth High School
P & C Association Inc.
secretarythspandc@gmail.com

Tamworth High P&C would like to advise that from the 2015 Country Music campers we have raised approximately $17,000. This money will be utilised for the benefit of the students at our school. A great outcome for what was a well supported event.

Next meeting will be the AGM which will be held on 17 March at 6:30pm in the school Cafeteria. If you would like to nominate for any of the following positions please submit your supported nominations to Email: secretarythspandc@gmail.com:-

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Canteen Treasurer, Assistant Canteen Treasurer.

These nominations are to be received no later than Friday 13 March 2015. You must be a financial member of the P&C to nominate for any of these positions.

Canteen helpers are still required. Anyone able to assist, even for an hour, please phone Judy Watson on 67659602.

G’DAY USA

There will be a Tamworth Community Group G’Day USA Meeting on Wednesday, March 4th at 7pm in the Oxley High Common Room.

Limited spaces are still available for any students interested in travelling this coming January. Please attend the meeting for more details or call Oxley High on 6766 1677 and talk to Mr McInnes or Miss Taylor.
CAFETERIA SPECIALS

Week Commencing 2/3/2015

Cake Special Rocky Road Slice $2.00
Snack Special Spicy Wing Things $1.20
Lunch Special Beef and Gravy Roll $5.00

Week Commencing 9/3/2015

Cake Special Custard Tart $2.00
Snack Special Scallops $1.20
Lunch Special Chicken & Bacon Cabonara $5.50

COMING SOON: Berry Smoothie - Wednesdays only

ALSO AVAILABLE: Gluten Free Sandwiches & Slices

CHECK OUT OUR NEW LINES
Flavoured Water & Mineral Water

Some price rises have occurred due to recent increased costs. Sorry for the inconvenience but the rises are out of our control.

Do you have any ideas for Special? Let the Canteen know and we will endeavour to get your ideas onto the Specials Menu

Planning for the future
Throughout your child's school life you'll need to make choices about aspects of their education and future. Here's a selection of tips to help you plan for parent-teacher talks, subject selection, careers advice and back-to-school.

Planning for the future:

Time to party
While most parties go off without a hitch, celebrations can go wrong and get out of hand – particularly if the party is unplanned. Here are tips to help ensure your teen and their friends have fun but stay safe.

Time to party:
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au//wellbeing/development/time-to-party

Maths tips for tweens
Kids who find maths easy in the early years of school can be turned off quickly if they get confused and can't work it out. Here are 10 ways to get your tween through the more challenging times.

Maths tips:

Comprehension help for teens
Some kids will read perfectly in primary school and then suddenly struggle with comprehension in high school. Here's why.

Comprehension help:
SOUTH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Would like to invite interested BOYS, GIRLS (5 years and up), MEN and WOMEN to register for the upcoming 2015 SOCCER season.

South United Football Club is a safe, family friendly club that prides itself with good sportsmanship and fair play for all. We do not discriminate, and we encourage players of all gender, culture and ability to play.

REGISTRATION Saturday, 28th February 3pm -4pm at SOUTH TAMWORTH BOWLING CLUB (in main bar area)

2015 season fees are:
entry level 5-7yrs $115 UNIFORMS: socks $10
junior level 8-11yrs $125 shorts $20
youth level 12-16yrs $135
senior level 17-18yrs $195
senior men/women $285

Season start: JUNIORS (5-16yrs) Saturday, 2nd May
SENIORS (17yrs& up) Saturday, 11th April

CONTACT: Helena Smith (secretary) mobile: 0402090132
E-mail: wayne_helena@bigpond.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/southlightning

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE TERM 2

All Year 10 students, who are not attending the Northern Trip in Weeks 1 and 2 of Term 2, are required to secure Work Experience placements to cover this period.

A letter has been distributed to all parents outlining this program and if you require further information please contact Mrs Gleeson-Barker on 02 67657888 or 0477715647.

Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC27248’

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC22604’.

Street Parking Before and After School

Please be considerate of residents in the adjoining streets and do not park across driveways.

NETBALL

THS plays Netball under the South Bowlo Netball Club. Students who have played previously will receive information through email. New students including Year 7 if you would like to play Saturday Netball see Mrs Sullivan in the Music Staffroom. Make your own teams or just come on your own.
CREATIVE ARTS
See Mrs Sullivan in the Music Faculty about the following:

♦ Looking for students interested in learning the violin and Brass

♦ **Guitar** will be starting soon $50.00 per term names to Mrs Sullivan.

♦ Students wishing to attend Vocal Camp and or Band Camp see Mrs Sullivan.

♦ Choir is up and running all students are welcome to join us particularly Year 7 students. We practice in HMUS 1 from 8.30 Tuesday mornings.

♦ This is a **Capers** year so we are looking for dancers to participate in the stage dances, indigenous dance and boys dance. Singers for the choir, instrumentalists for the Concert Band and featured artists. Students will also have the opportunity to work backstage. So don’t be shy, lets us show the talent of THS. See Mrs Sullivan or Ms Bricknell.

♦ **Vocal Workshop** will be held on the 28th and 29th April and is open to all students with a desire to perform for HSC, Capers, and School Spectacular.

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**Travel**

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

**Policy, information and brochures**: [http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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**The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey**

Our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

The survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students.
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

What are my legal responsibilities?
Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for home-schooling.
Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time
Arriving at school and class on time:
• Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
• Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
• Give students time to greet their friends before class
• Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?
On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:
• being sick, or having an infectious disease
• having an unavoidable medical appointment
• being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
• exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.
Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.
Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Vocal Performance Workshop

These students were the featured artists at CAPERS 2013 and were trained by Robert McDougall in many workshops. They were constantly challenged to strive for higher goals...and they did!! Most of them did not have regular singing lessons!!

Following the success of the workshop in November 2014, Rob is coming back to Tamworth to lead another workshop. This will also be an audition opportunity to become a Featured Artist for CAPERS 2015 and prepare you for other audition opportunities and even an HSC!

Workshop leader
Robert McDougall is a graduate of Oxley High School who has passionately carved a career as a professional singer and performer. He has performed in countless School Spectaculars and CAPERS, graduated from the Talent Development Project, attended Sydney Conservatorium of Music and gained a Music degree (vocal major), workshoped and performed in New York and spent a year teaching at the Tamworth Conservatorium of Music. He is now in the professional cast of Les Miserables which is currently running in Sydney after the end of the Melbourne and Perth season. Robert has taken two days away from Les Miserables to come to Tamworth to lead this workshop. Robert has performed the role of Javert in this production which makes him the youngest person to play this role anywhere in the world!!

The workshop is ideally timed for our Year 11 and Year 12 students to set them on a path to a brilliant HSC result. They won’t get a better opportunity outside Sydney!! It is also an opportunity for students of ALL ages to audition for a solo spot in CAPERS 2015. It can also prepare students to audition for School Spectacular and Talent Development Project.

Daniel Murray will be the accompanist for the workshop. He is a graduate of Tamworth High School who has returned from Newcastle with a Music degree (piano major). Daniel is also doing lots of professional arrangements for all types of ensembles. His arrangements have been performed at School Spectacular, Star Struck in Newcastle, Southern Stars in Wollongong and he has been the Musical Director of CAPERS since its inception.

Both of these young men are extraordinary musicians and we are privileged to have been involved in their musical development and for them to be willing to share their knowledge and experience. Don’t miss this opportunity.

CAPERS 2015 – The theme is ‘OUT OF THE BOX’.
You may like to consider the theme when selecting your song. Think of all the ‘types of boxes’ there are: eg Toy Box, Lunch Box, Telephone Box, Hat Box (Wardrobe), Coffins, Jute Box, Tool Box, Jewellery Box.....the list is endless.
Prefect News

Table Tennis Competition
During Week 10, Term 4 last year, Prefects organised and ran a table tennis competition. This competition was run with doubles matches of student vs. teacher. Mr Porter and Ms Loughery vs. Kate Sutherland Jackson O'Brien ending up the grand final and a slice to the head of Ms Loughery caused a stoppage. This then affected the performance of Kate and Jackson and so the title of Table Tennis Grand Champions went to Port's and Ms Loughery. This was just the first of our student vs. teacher sports, and we hope to be providing more entertainment in other sports as the year progresses.

Valentine’s Day
On the 13th of February the Prefects sold chocolate roses and hearts, as well as sing-a-grams for students to give their significant others or friends. These Valentine’s day gifts were delivered by the prefect group, including some very well sung sing-a-grams, our most popular ones being “Jessie’s Girl” and “What Makes You Beautiful”.

Swimming Carnival
On the 5th February, Prefects organised a barbeque for the school’s annual swimming carnival. Served under the new school marquee, given to the school from the 2014 prefects, the barbeque was a huge success, in fact running out of bread to serve the sausages. Thankyou to the other year 12 students that helped run this barbeque.

Year 7 Disco
The prefects would like to inform everyone of their upcoming disco to welcome the year 7’s. It will be held on the night of Wednesday, 4th March from 6:30 to 10:30pm, with a theme of ‘Thrift Shop’. A barbeque will be run selling sausages and cans of drink. Tickets will be sold for $3 for Year 7’s, and $4 for the remainder of the school. More details will be provided closer to the event, including prices for the BBQ.

Closing Date 27 MARCH 2015
A Song Writing workshop will be held simultaneously.
Information available soon.
www.regionalartsnewengland.com.au