From the Principal

This week we celebrate the achievements of our students at the middle and senior awards ceremonies at Mal Nairn complex at CDU. Congratulations to the students who have worked so hard throughout the year to achieve these awards and the staff and families that have supported them.

We wished our travellers to Tasmania and Africa our best wishes as they set off on their journeys.

World Challenge

We farewelled the WorldChallenge students last week, who have worked all year getting prepared for their African adventure. What a fantastic opportunity camping out in the Kalahari Desert, and trekking through villages in Botswana as some of the highlights of their four week challenge. Here’s one of the teams in the Kalahari Dessert.

Eclectic Art Exhibition

Thanks to teachers Sharlee Harley and Adrienne Wade who convened Taminmin’s Eclectic Art Exhibition. Student art work was on display from years 7 to 12 and showcased the variety and range of projects being undertaken across the school. Many of our parents took the opportunity to visit the exhibition. The quality of the work on display was excellent and highlighted the talent and creativity of students.
Student Achievements

Ballet Performance ‘Coppelia’

On the 24th and 25th of November, year 10 student Soni Buick-Martin, performed in the ballet "Coppelia" at the Darwin Entertainment Centre. Soni, who is training with the Palmerston Ballet School, danced in the Waltz of the Hours and the Mazurka (pictured). Three international guest artists from the Hong Kong Ballet, the Australian Ballet and the Berlin Ballet also performed with the students, one of whom provided master classes to the ballet students in the week before the performance. Live music was provided by members of the Darwin Symphony Orchestra conducted by Professor Martin Jarvis. The ballet production provided Territory ballet students with a wonderful opportunity to be inspired and encouraged by professional dancers from some of the most well respected ballet companies in the world.

FFA State Institute

Challenge Congratulations to two of Taminmin’s year 10 students, Ryan Davis and Andrew Hind, on being selected to represent the NT at the FFA State Institute Challenge (Soccer) being held in Canberra from the 3rd to 8th December. This is an under 18 Youth competition that is closely watched by club and national selectors from all over Australia. Each state is represented by their elite players and the NT will play every team culminating in the best players being selected to play in the All Stars team on Saturday.

Australian Institute of Sport

Taminmin College student, Luke Conaghty, is currently playing rugby with Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) for the under 18’s touring side. They are playing in France and the UK from 12th Nov to 12th Dec. Check out www.ourfootyteam.com/aisnews for more information.

Winners of Territory Culinary Challenge

Lillie Thompson and Kayley Maxwell were the overall winners of the Territory Culinary Challenge. Full report in the VET section.
School Holidays 2012
25th June - 20th July
1st October – 5th October

School Captains
Senior School
Georgia McCallum
Bill Nguyen
Zoe Owens
Bill Shappert

Middle School
Cheya Clarke
Jack Short
Grace Perry
Marcus Raymond

School Bus Routes

IMPORTANT: COLLECTING STUDENT DURING SCHOOL HOURS
A reminder to parents. If you need to collect your child early please provide your child with a signed and dated note explaining the reason for the absence or notify the school by either phone or email before the start of the day or no later than before lunch break at 12.20pm. Acceptable reasons for students leaving early include medical appointments, family issues, prearranged sporting (approved by the principal) or students leaving from sick bay. Please understand that while our Administration Staff are here to help you on a campus of this size, with students participating in so many varied activities students cannot generally be located quickly. We have had many cases where we have had to take staff off core functions like sick bay and first aid to look for a student. This places other students in danger who require care is sick bay. Please sign your child out through Middle School or Senior School Reception.

Please remember to contact Student Reception 89837200 – Middle School or 898371441 - Senior School student reception’s prior to 12.20pm if you need to collect your child early and have forgotten to give them a note in the morning.

AWARD EVENINGS

SENIOR SCHOOL
Tuesday 4th December
7-8.30pm
Enquiries phone 89837078

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Thursday 6th December
7-8.30pm
Enquiries phone 89837137

To be held at the Mal Nairn Auditorium
Charles Darwin University

Miriam McDonald
Principal

Uniform Sale – With the introduction of the new Taminmin Uniform we are selling our current stock at extra cheap prices. See the link here http://www.taminmin.nt.edu.au/node/292
Look forward to catching up with many of our school community at the Awards Presentations,

Miriam McDonald
Principal
**Territory Culinary Challenge 2012**

On the 15\textsuperscript{th} November, four teams of Taminmin College Hospitality students competed in the Taste of the Territory Culinary Challenge 2012. Traditionally this challenge was aimed at local establishments; this year is the first for VETiS students to be able to showcase their skills. Students used their skills to produce a three course meal using produce found in the Territory. Students found this experience very rewarding as they competed next to local chefs. Below are the place getters:

**Entrée**
- Gold: Lillie Thompson and Kayley Maxwell (Cert I)
- Silver: Maggie Hubbard and Lizzie Fogarty (Cert I)
- Bronze: Anthony Duncan and Joshua Eltagonde (Cert II)

**Main**
- Gold: Anthony Duncan and Joshua Eltagonde (Cert II)
- Silver: Lillie Thompson and Kayley Maxwell (Cert I)
- Bronze: Maggie Hubbard and Lizzie Fogarty (Cert I)

**Dessert**
- Gold: Chloe Taylor and Madison French-Kinsella (Cert II)
- Silver: Lillie Thompson and Kayley Maxwell (Cert I)
- Bronze: Maggie Hubbard and Lizzie Fogarty (Cert I)

**Overall Winners: Lillie Thompson and Kayley Maxwell (Cert I)**

**Farewell**

This year the VET sector farewells one of its great trainers, Helen Grant. Helen has dedicated the last 7 years to training Cert I and II in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations) with outstanding achievements from her students. Over the years Helen’s students have been nominated for numerous awards and won many, including Vocational Student prizes and Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence. This year Helen also took out the prestigious 2012 VETiS Trainer of the Year award at the NT Training Awards.

Helen will be continuing on at Taminmin in Senior School but moving into mainstream classes to extend her skill base. We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Helen for all of her hard work and dedication over the years and wish her every success in this new phase of her career.

The VET Team.
Dear Parents and School Community members,

Whilst I know most of our parents and students are far too intelligent to partake in social media discussion without first ensuring the facts of the matter, today I would like to take the opportunity to inform you about yesterday’s sensational facebook topic on the Northern Territory News site which stated “Taminmin College is considering introducing a power levy - paid for by parents - because it is already $70,000 short of meeting its power bill and is worried about the new increases. Are you a Taminmin parent who may be affected by this? If so, please call 89449774.”

Firstly, as I have demonstrated over the past two years of being Chairman of Council, I constantly provide my email address, theratahis@bigpond.com, and mobile phone, 0413522606 (after 4 pm), to encourage any school community member to contact me to discuss any issue of concern. The fact that I have received only two calls in the last two days, from parents who advised their ‘posts’ had disappeared off the NT News facebook page on querying what investigative journalism had been undertaken, indicates to me that most of you are aware of the motivations of social media engineering. I also have not received any communication from any professional journalist at the NT News, and I have my own theory on why the NT News would not be interested in acquiring facts. I will leave it to you to make your own conclusions. I am clearly not difficult to contact, as an ABC journalist managed to do so. He was interested in dissecting the issue, and the following is what I advised him.

The recent announcement of a 30% increase in electricity charges and 40% increase in water charges from January 2013 is of concern to everyone in the community. Whatever concern you feel as a householder wondering exactly what your bills are going to be, and how you can possibly make savings, let me assure you that Taminmin Council has these concerns, multiplied many times. The information received from Government is that “School Councils will be assisted with 50% of the increase on their energy and water bills”. This, however, means that there will be no assistance with the other 50%.

The issue of the effect of these increases on educational institutions was highlighted in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday. Whilst I have no intention of debating the effect on independent versus public schools, what I will say is that independent schools do not have the same constraints as public schools in recouping these costs. It was also highlighted that there was no surety on reimbursements to public schools, given the current system is inadequate. This particularly highlighted that Taminmin Council is still pursuing a reimbursement claim from 2011 which was submitted for nearly $75 000 for Essential Services and Property Management, of which $25 000 was attributable to electricity and water (I’m assuming this is where the NT News didn’t follow the facts). What is of utmost importance is that the College reduced power consumption by nearly 93,000 kwH from 2010 to 2011, as schools have to make savings in electricity and water, yet despite this quite considerable reduction, the department will still not contribute an adequate allocation for power and water. This is for 2011 - we have not yet even started on our bills for 2012. I will make no apology for Council continuing to pursue these reimbursements. If you have ever attended a Council meeting you would confirm the discussion and angst of Council when the purchase of equipment, resources, seating and a multitude of other learning resources that our students deserve, have to be put on hold because we are underfunded just to keep the power on.

Council did discuss this issue at the November Council meeting, and requested staff review our data in regards to usage over the past 5 years, in order to resubmit yet another claim for reimbursement. I am also currently writing to the Minister for Education, seeking confirmation of exactly what assistance School Councils will be provided with, so we are able to further inform you of what impact these increases will have. I did also raise the issue of a PAWA contribution – at the end of the day, if there are going to be increases of 30% to electricity and 40% to water which Council is only going to be reimbursed half of that cost, Council cannot just pluck...
that money out of the air – however, you will all be consulted about your preferences for cost cutting or revenue raising to pay to keep the power on. I personally have no intention of being one of a few cooking sausages at Bunnings every weekend to keep the power on!

On a much lighter note, I was absolutely delighted to be invited to officially open the ‘Eclectic’ Art Exhibition last week, featuring an amazing array of art works crafted by students from Year 7-12. I was both very proud and very envious (that I never had these opportunities when I was at high school) at the high quality and thought provoking works – whilst the students should delight in their achievements, this would not been possible without the inspiration and guidance of Adrienne Wade, Sharlee Harley and Anne-Marie Hurtgen.

As always, please feel free to contact me to discuss any issues of concern.

Beverley Ratahi

Community Notices

DRIVESAFE NT

A DriveSafe NT course will be held on 17th & 18th December from 8am-12pm in room 3.05 at Taminmin College.

To enrol, students must complete a DriveSafe NT enrolment and Learner Licence application form and provide evidence of identity and residency documents to MVR at enrolment. Students under 18 years of age must have the parental consent section completed on the Drivesafe NT enrolment form.

The enrolment fee is $110 and paid to MVR at time of enrolment. Enrolment/learner licence application forms can be collected at the MVR office or by visiting www.nt.gov.au/drivesafent
TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS

From this Sunday, 2 December, three oversize convoys will travel on the Arnhem Highway.
They will leave East Arm Port at 6 am to avoid peak hour traffic and are expected to reach the Arnhem Highway at about 7 am and the Bark Hut Inn about 10 am, where they will pull over for a break. The main disruption to traffic is likely to be the last stretch to Jabiru as the convoys will be travelling at 60 to 70 km/h and may be hard to overtake.

Dates for these convoys are:
- Sunday, 2 December
- Wednesday, 5 December
- Sunday, 9 December

So the convoy can pass safely below power lines and into the Ranger uranium mine power in Jabiru will be disrupted between 8 am and 10 am on:
- Monday, 3 December
- Thursday, 6 December
- Monday, 10 December

KEEP INFORMED
Visit www.energyres.com.au or ring 1800 237 228 to help plan your travel.