The next three weeks for your diary

| Week 2  
2\textsuperscript{nd} – 6\textsuperscript{th} February | Monday | Tuesday |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| P&C Parent BBQ 5:30pm  
P&C Meeting 7pm | Year 7 ID Card Photographs |         |

| Week 3  
9\textsuperscript{th} -13\textsuperscript{th} February | Monday | Tuesday |
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<td>Year 11 Assessment Evening</td>
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| Week 4  
16\textsuperscript{th} – 20\textsuperscript{th} February | Monday | Tuesday |
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 Meet the Teacher BBQ</td>
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<td>Swimming Carnival Years 7-12</td>
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Principal’s Report

It was wonderful to welcome the boys back to this week and see that everyone has returned taller and smiling from the summer holiday break. It was especially great to see Year 7 embark on this important next step in their development and to see so many parents who were able to be there for their first day of high school. Year 7 left their first day eager to get home, with new friendships and new teachers to match their immaculately pristine new uniforms. Thanks to Ms Smit, the Year 7 Adviser and all the teams teachers for doing a fantastic job of helping the boys to settle in. At the time of writing Year 7 have discovered the joys of the canteen, handball courts and a new timetable. You can probably expect them to arrive home fairly exhausted for the weekend!

In our first welcome assembly with each year group I set them their first piece of homework for the year. I asked the boys to imagine the comments that they would like to see on their end of year reports in December and to think about the reaction that they would like to see when they bring them home to you. I made the point that the boys largely have the ability to choose what their reports look like, depending on their attitude and effort throughout the year.
The discussion we will continue to have at school this year is about how success is more about choice and hard work than luck. It would be great if you could weave in a similar discussion with your son at home.

There are a number of events, organised both by the school and the P&C, which will take place over the rest of the term. If you are able to come along it would be great to see you there.

*Dwayne Hopwood*

*Principal*

**Staffing Changes**

The ABHS teaching staff has remained quite stable in 2015. Mr Tintner from the English / ESL faculty retired at the end of last year and Mr Fasan from CAPA is on long term leave for most of 2015.

We welcome Ms Sharon Zhang as our new Chinese / ESL teacher this year. Ms Zhang took up her position as the result of a merit selection process at the end of 2014 and was previously a teacher and Year Adviser at Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay. Ms Zhang is a highly experienced and regarded teacher and we are very happy to have her on staff.

**P&C Events**

The next P&C meeting is scheduled for the 9th February at 7pm in the Staff Common room. To welcome the parents of Year 7 and all new and existing parents the P&C have organised for a parent BBQ starting at 5:30pm before the meeting. This is a great opportunity to come along, become actively involved with the school and to meet other parents.

The P&C is also running a fundraising BBQ at Ashfield Bunnings on Saturday the 28th February. If you are interested in volunteering for this please contact the P&C President, Louise Brooks at abhs_pandc@hotmail.com.

**2014 HSC Results**

We were very pleased with the solid set of results achieved by the boys in last year’s HSC. The overwhelming majority of students gained results high enough to enter their chosen course at University, TAFE or other educational pathway. There were three 3 students who achieved ATARS over 97, placing them in the top 3% of the state and 9 others who achieved ATARS over 90 placing them in the top 10%.
Uniform

One of the basic expectations of the ABHS parent community is that all students will comply with the school uniform code. It was pleasing to see that well over 95% of students arrived back at school dressed in correct full school uniform this week. Besides enhancing the reputation of the school in the community, school uniform is an important safety precaution.

If your son needs to purchase any items of uniform could you please arrange for this to happen by the start of next week. The uniform shop will be open at school on Monday and many other items such as shirts and pants can be purchased at Lowes. The wearing of black leather-upper, lace-up shoes is a safety requirement and must be worn at all times except for sport and practical PE lessons.

We really appreciate your support in insisting that your son leaves home in full uniform each morning. If you are facing legitimate financial hardship please contact the school as assistance may be available for the purchase of uniform items.

We will be in contact next week if your son is still arriving with an incomplete school uniform.

New Rugby Uniforms

Late last year Mr Radojevic and Mr Chatwin submitted an application to Wests Ashfield for financial assistance to purchase new sets of Rugby jerseys for each of the school’s grade rugby teams. The club has been very generous in supporting us in this and has provided a grant which will help us to purchase three sets of jerseys. The new jerseys will reflect the proud sporting tradition of ABHS as the design will see a return to the traditional “white V” that the boys have worn in previous decades.

The jerseys are currently on order and will be ready for the start of the winter grade sport season. We look forward to showing them to you when they arrive.

Car park Construction

The car park construction next door at Wests Ashfield will still continue and is now due for completion in early March. We thank you and the boys for your ongoing patience.

Facilities Upgrade

As part of our planned facilities upgrade the school installed a new computer server in January. This has caused some minor problems with the network; including a delay to our website rebuilding. However the new server will deliver faster connection and download speeds as well as enhance the boys’ access to the internet. This piece of infrastructure is necessary for our continued expansion and integration of ICT based 21st century learning into all our teaching programs. Now that the new server is installed we will be able to expand the roll out of Ipads, laptops and Interactive White boards for classroom use.