Welcome Back
Welcome back to all of our students, teachers and parents. A special welcome to the new members of the Tumbarumba High School community who are new to the town or have children at high school for the first time. Our NAPLAN and Higher School certificate results have continued to surpass expectations of the last three years, highlighting the ability of every student to gain outstanding results in a range of courses whilst studying at Tumbarumba High School.

Apart from the usual swimming carnivals and school photographs, the most pressing matter for the school is the development of the new School Plan. In 2014, the DEC introduced a new system for schools to undertake the school planning process. The new School Plan will continue to make Principals’ significantly more accountable and will be directly linked to the school finances. We will be gradually publishing sections of the School Plan as the term progresses and seeking feedback from members of the community before looking to have the Plan completed by the end of Term 1.

The extensive use of the Literacy Continuum will continue to be a major focus for us in the junior school throughout 2015. We have again planned to evaluate student progress in Stage 4 before the end of this term and will map our Stage 5 students at the beginning of Term 2. Literacy Continuum reports were sent out to parents of Year 7, 8 and 9 students towards the end of last term.

Dux of 2014
It is with great pleasure that I can announce that Michael Grady is Dux of the School for 2014. Michael achieved outstanding Band 6 results in a number of his courses, including 3rd in Course result for Metals and Engineering. Michael will take up a position in the Engineering Faculty at University of Wollongong. We congratulate Michael on his success and wish him the very best of luck as he embarks on his tertiary studies.

New Staff
We had a significant turnover of staff over the holidays, creating vacancies which we have managed to fill, albeit on a temporary basis at this time. The staff changes include:

- Mrs Edwards (Orange HS) – Miss Dunemann
- Mrs Beattie (Maternity Leave) – Ms Troncone
- Ms Guthrie (Teacher Exchange to Campbelltown Performing Arts HS) – Ms Sturgess

The changes that have occurred will require a change to the timetable, potentially by the end of next week. We are still waiting to calculate our

COMING EVENTS

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<td>4/2/15</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>4-5/2/15</td>
<td>Wollongong Uni Discovery Days</td>
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final student numbers, with the census date in the middle of week 3, and a number of students (and their families) still unable to be included in our numbers. Our student numbers directly determine our staffing levels, making it essential that any returning students or families make contact with us as soon as possible so they can be included in the census data.

Swimming Carnival
The Tumbarumba High School Annual School Swimming Carnival will be held this Wednesday at the Tumbarumba Pool. All students are expected to attend to ensure there are lots of competitors, regardless of ability, and a healthy cheer squad for each house.

School Photos
School photos will take place this Friday. Notes should be returned on the day and handed to the photographer, with the correct money inside. Students must wear their correct school uniform to be included in the photographs – This is the blue polo shirt, NOT the maroon sports shirt.

2015 homework planner
Kids and families run more smoothly when there's a plan. The 2015 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year. Find out more http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips

Doing well in class
Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older kids reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video. Find our more http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/getting-off-to-a-good-start/good-start-chapter-one

Eight ways to get your kids organised
Are you ready for morning madness, late assignments, yesterday's half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag? Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely. Find out more:

Smart foods to boost learning
Mother Nature is full of foods that help us think and feel better. What do you give your child to help them think more clearly, and enhance concentration and memory? Find out more:

Parents pool their tips
Ask your child to write all their teachers' names on their timetables and make a copy for the fridge. If they have a mobile phone, have them take a photo of their timetable so they have it with them all the time. Read more tips from experienced parents. Find out more:

Benefits of team sports
If you want your child to grow up to be a confident and well-adjusted adult, then team sports may well be the answer. Benefits include learning how to be more resilient, and being less likely to feel isolated. Find out more:

JUNIOR ENGLISH NEWS
We are now in Week 2 of Term 1 and staff report that the junior English classes are settled and have made a good start to the 2015 academic year. Mr Blenkins and Mrs Godby will be teaching dedicated Literacy lessons to students in Years 7 and 8. These lessons will endeavour to address literacy needs identified through the school’s plotting of students on the Literacy Continuum in 2014 and the trends identified in the 2014 NAPLAN performance data. Students will be working through a booklet and learning activities that focus on aspects of reading, writing and comprehension. Some in class testing that was completed last week revealed that students had a very good grasp of basic punctuation – full stops, commas and apostrophes.

Students in 7-8 have commenced the new unit of learning based on the concept of war. This unit will expose students to various text forms,
including fiction, non-fiction and film. The students will be issued with the novel *Soldier Boy* by Anthony Hill and they will also be viewing a film that is linked to the experiences of Australian soldiers in World War One. This unit of learning will have special relevance to students in 2015 as we commemorate 100 years since the landing at Gallipoli in 1915. The students will be issued with their assessment task in coming weeks – and this will be due in Week 8 of Term 1.

The Year 9-10 English classes are currently revising language and literary terms that have been examined in the course of Stages 3, 4 and 5. The students have completed three revision sheets and various learning activities. In Week 4 the students will sit a Language and Literary Terms assessment. Students in 9-10 English are commencing a series of responding tasks based on the novels that were issued in Term 4 2014. Students will be examining the concept of personal resilience and how this is represented in and through the characters depicted in the novels studied. Mr Blenkins’ students are studying the novel *Touch Me* by James Moloney; Mrs Godby’s students are studying *Raw*; Miss Gramm’s students are studying *The Never Boys*.

**SENIOR ENGLISH**

Advanced and Standard students have been issued with an overview of the format of this year’s mid-course examination. The examination will cover the Area of Study – based on Inner Journeys – which the students completed in Term 4 2014. Mrs Godby and Miss Grimm were impressed by the standard of the assessment tasks that were submitted by students at the end of last term. The students developed HSC-style questions and stimulus booklets – which made them assume the thought processes that the HSC examiners would also apply when developing an examination paper.

Mrs Godby’s Standard English class is currently studying an elective based on dialogue and the play *The Club* by David Williamson. Miss Gramm’s Advanced English students are studying and analysing a selection of short stories written by F. Scott Fitzgerald who wrote *The Great Gatsby*. Miss Grimm’s class will also be examining *The Front* – a film set in the US during 1950s. Both texts will function as effective foundations to the students’ HSC modules which will commence in Term 2 2015.

Mr Blenkins’ English Studies class is undertaking a study of sport. The students will be examining how sport impacts on individuals and communities in positive and negative ways. The students are reading the novel *Deadly Unna* and are using a suite of 2LS literacy strategies to enhance their reading-comprehension skills. The students will also be studying the film *Australian Rules* which is premised on the novel *Deadly Unna* and another novel titled *Nukkin Ya*.

Mr Blenkins’ Extension 1 class is studying appropriations of genre. The students have studied a selection of early crime short stories by Poe and will now be studying the novel *The Skull Beneath the Skin*.

**7-8 DRAMA**

Mrs Beattie is about to commence her maternity leave and she will be replaced by Ms C Troncone. We welcome Ms Troncone to the English-Creative Arts Faculty and Tumbarumba
High School where she will be teaching Year 7-8 Drama and 9-10 Music. Drama will provide students with an educational experience through which they can develop their performance skills, creative and self confidence.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

Students in 7, 8 and 9 will have the opportunity to participate in the 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge. Students in the Library DEAR group and students in the 301 and 302 DEAR groups have access to the texts that have been listed in the challenge. Last year, more than 30 students from Tumbarumba High School completed the challenge – and we hope that even more will receive awards this year. Parents are also reminded that they are welcome to visit the school library and access the wonderful selection of fiction books and non-fiction books that has been accrued over the years. A selection of new books will be available soon for students to examine and borrow.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Don’t miss out, unique event of the year! An excuse to get dressed up, get a group together for a lovely afternoon out.

Saturday 7 Feb. 2.00pm – 5.00pm Batlow RSL
See ‘dressed up ‘ brumbies from 1.00pm in the car park. Celebration of Love Parade – vintage to modern wedding dresses. Excellent & numerous lucky door prizes and much more.

Tickets: $20 before 01/02/15 OR $30 at the door
Batlow Women4women on Facebook
Tina 0412 83 14 19 OR 69 49 2604
Leanne 0427 23 32 73 OR 69 48 3990

Thank you so much for supporting our event.
Leanne Bowdler
Event Co-ordinator
Batlow Women4women
### ASSESSMENT PLANNER

**Stage 4**

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