Principal’s Message

We have had a great start to the year. It has been sensational. All classes are up and running and everything is under control. If your children are not using their diaries let us know and I can follow up with their teachers. Diaries are your communication link with the team of people teaching your children. You are a critical ingredient for successfully empowering and informing yourself to be an effective parent in the teaching-learning partnership.

Our Open Night is on Wednesday March 6 starting at 6.30pm. We would love everyone to come and join our students showing off their great school.

In Term 4, 2012 a number of Year 10 Students participated in a Boys Leadership Workshop. The 5 week workshop was aimed at preparing for Year 11, identifying Leadership traits within themselves and the demand for Leadership in the Senior School including: SRC, SEC, Peer Mediation and Sporting House Captains. The participants Jacob, Jack, Fergus, Josh, Liam, Luke, Joel, Peter, Ethan, Jake, Jack and Liam learnt a lot about what it takes to be a Leader and important skills they possessed within themselves to take on School Leadership roles. It is pleasing to note that all the participants of the workshop where nominated, with the majority being elected, by their peers, to leadership positions available in Year 11.

I have received a wonderful letter from the President of the “Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation” acknowledging the outstanding achievements of Jessica in achieving second in the State in HSC PDHPE in 2012. I am reprinting it to honour the “student-teacher-school” team that realised the great opportunities offered to all students at Menai High School. “On behalf of the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) NSW I would like to congratulate your school on its outstanding results in the 2012 HSC in Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). We commend you for producing a student Jessica Durand who gained a place in the Top Achiever’s List for PDHPE. The excellent results are a testament to the commitment and dedication of Paul Phease in preparing his PDHPE students for their HSC."

Jess was not the only one in the school achieving such accolades. Christina and Miss Osborne came second in the State in Dance. Renee and Mrs Mundy came seventh in Standard English and Jessica and Mr Meagher came twentieth in Advanced English. When the fact that English is the only compulsory subject involving the nearly 70,000 HSC candidates is considered we stand in awe of these achievements. It would be impossible to individually acknowledge the 69 band 6’s (ie scoring 90%-100%) or the 255 band 5’s (ie scoring 80%-90%) other than to acknowledge them as outstanding achievements.

Jessica and Melissa of Year 12 (both in SRC 2012) applied for and have been accepted into the 2013 YMCA Youth Parliament. Our girls will serve this great program well and honour themselves, our school and community in the process. The YMCA NSW South Parliament is a program that gives young people a voice in the running of NSW. It is a place where the opinions and concerns of young people in NSW are heard by those who have the power to make laws. Run by young people, the program aims to promote youth-led advocacy, active community leadership and legal and parliamentary education. The program is managed by YMCA NSW. The YMCA is a vibrant, self-funding, not for profit charity that delivers contemporary programs which proactively change people’s lives and strengths the community and workforce. Working with over 35 communities across NSW at more than 100 locations, the YMCA generates in excess of 4 million visits per year. The YMCA is for Family, Healthy Living, Developing Young People and Those Less Fortunate.

Mr Jones will deliver SRE from a Christian perspective. Any students not electing to participate in the 6 week rotation (1 period per week) will work with their normal teacher on consolidation and general skills development but NOT engage in any new work. Mr Jones will present a program of benefit to all young people regardless of their faith background and all students are welcome. Every student/family must ‘opt in’ or ‘opt out’ of the program so that all students are supervised and accounted for. I am confident that this is yet another great opportunity for students at Menai High School.

Another great service on its way in Term 2 is the Mobile Dental Clinic which offers free dental screening and dental care to eligible students. The clinic is a mobile, fully equipped dental surgery which could be a blessing for cash or time poor families. More details will follow on this amazing offer initiated and overseen by Mrs Hatzi.

The uniform shop has been very well used. For busy parents they offer a Credit Card Authorisation service so that parents can pay by credit card without needing to come in themselves. With this form available from the front office or shop students can order and pick up without disrupting parent routines. This is an interim step prior to full “on-line shopping” being available in Term 2.

Year 11 and 12 exam periods should be avoided for family holidays. We ask families to try and avoid organising holidays in exam times which are:

Year 11 Half Yearly Exams 27 May-7 June Yearly Exams 2 September-13 September
Year 12 Half Yearly Exams 28 March-12 April Trial HSC 1 August-16 August

Finally, let me share the warm welcome extended to many new students and their families to our wonderful school family. I hope your transitions are smooth and easy. Let us know if we can help with anything. Welcome Jemma, Brayden, Chenyue, Jeremy, Emily, Harry, Marjorie, Emily, Cody, Elizabeth, Sarah, Henry An Loc, Umer, Shyleigh, Lauren, Ting, Sehel, Rebecca, Dao Phung Andy, Tara, Quynh Vicky, Jack, Suby, Joshua, Abu, Brima, Lijein, Ashley, Joaquin, Gabriel, Jazmin, Taylor, Catherine, Amy, Alae, Jacqueline, Tiffany, Demi, Jemma and Etienne. Also International students Chenyue and Bjorn.

E McNALLY

IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS

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<td>Monday 18/2</td>
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Deputy Principal’s Message

Welcome back our current families—all Year 7 families and to all our new families to Menai High. We have had a very busy start to 2013 and have a number of important events coming up this term. A Parent Information Night on Assessment will held for Year 11 on 27th February in the school library and Year 10 on 13th March also in the school library. A letter concerning these meetings will be coming home soon with your child. I have sent an email to all Year 11 students with a copy of the Menai High Assessment Policy and Assessment Schedule. This information also includes a copy of the Year 11 Pattern of Study to assist them if they wish to make changes to their subjects. Year 11 have also completed a seminar and quiz on assessment for the HSC.

Year 12 Yellow timetables
I am currently in the process of distributing yellow timetables to Year 12. This timetable enables students to either leave early or arrive late if they do not have timetabled lessons. Students must return their permission before the yellow timetable will be issued. Your child must swipe in and out at the office when they have the permitted leave. If they do not follow the procedure the privilege will be removed.

Year 11 Change of course
Year 11 will be given the opportunity to make changes to their pattern of study in week 4. This will take place on Thursday 21st during sport time. Next week students who wish to change subjects can collect a form with instructions concerning the process. Some Year 11 students may not be successful in making a change to their pattern of study due to the large numbers in some courses. Each course has a maximum class size and this could prevent some of the requested changes.

All Year 12 and 11 changes are to be completed by the end of Week 4.

Year 9 Change of Elective
If any student feels they need to change an elective they must follow the process below.
1. Collect a change of course form from Mrs Allen
2. Discuss the change with their parents and attach a note from the parents explaining the reason for the change.
3. Return the form to Mrs Allen in the library at lunchtime on Friday 22nd February
4. I will interview each student and check if the courses have room.
5. If all is OK and there is room in the course, the student must take the form to the head teacher, class teachers and year advisors involved in the changes so the student can be registered or removed for the class lists.
6. Return the completed form to Mrs Allen and if everything is OK a new timetable will be produced and changes will be moved to the school data bases.

All changes must be completed by week 5 term 1. This is a very time consuming process and I ask students and parents to be patient.

R ALLEN

Year 7 Orientation Dinner

Friday 22nd February, 2013
School Hall—7.00pm

We invite all of Year 7 and their parents to join staff at this great night of entertainment, motivation and friendship.
A full buffet meal is provided for a cost of only $25 a head organised by our P&C association. Students, parents and staff will be entertained by students from our Performing Arts department and students will speak about their experiences at Menai High. This is a great opportunity to meet teachers and the families of other students in Year Seven. We hope this event will once again provide valuable motivation for our 2013 Year 7 families.
R Lindsay, Deputy Principal

Welcome all to another year at Menai High. The annual Year 7 Orientation Dinner will be held on Friday 22nd February in our school auditorium. Tickets are on sale! I would like to ask for some volunteers to help set up for the evening and also to help through the night selling raffle tickets. Any time is great! If you can help please email menai-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au and it will be forwarded onto me.
Robynne Challinor, P&C President

Welfare News!

Diaries
Menai High School diaries have been distributed to most students. It is compulsory for all students in Year 7-12 to have these diaries. Any student who hasn’t paid $6 for a diary must pay as soon as possible. There is provision in the diary for communication between parents and teachers on a weekly basis. So if there are any concerns about work or effort, this can be monitored carefully through the child’s diary. It will be the student’s responsibility to show the parent or teacher the comments made which will be certified by a signature. We hope this will assist in opening up the channels of communication which are so important between parents and teachers.

Year 7 Camp
Year 7 have a terrific camp at Morisset to look forward to in March. This is an excellent opportunity for Year 7 to mix together as well as have a lot of fun. I hope all students will be able to go.
Congratulations to Year 7 students who have settled in to high school so well and are already displaying responsibility, diligence and initiative.

Motivational Media
On Monday 18th February, the Motivational Media Group will present the program “MAD for LIFE” which is screened on 3 giant screens. These presentations in the past have always been entertaining but more importantly, they contain messages about focusing on goals, maintaining a positive attitude, making wise life choices and helping others. All students in Years 7-10 will attend.

Student Absences
Students who are absent from school for one or more days are required to bring a note signed by a parent/caregiver to explain their absence, the first day they return to school.

If, however, a parent/caregiver has phoned the school or sent a text message on the day their child is absent from school, then a note is not required.

If a student has an assessment task on the day of absence, however, a doctor’s certificate must be presented to their class teacher or Head Teacher the comments made which will be certified by a signature.

K Mundy
Head Teacher, Welfare

2013 Swimming Carnival

The School Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 13th February at Revesby Pool. Students who wish to catch the bus must be out the front of the school by 8.35am. Students are to pay $10 as they board the bus. This will pay for their transport and pool entry. Students making their own way to the pool must pay $5 as they enter.

Please encourage your child to wear a hat, protective clothing, sunscreen and to drink plenty of water. Students do not wear their school uniform on the day, but are encouraged to wear clothing that is the same colour as their Sport House. All permission notes must be returned to Roll Call Teachers by Tuesday.

M Robinson, Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE

Earth Hour 2013
Saturday 23rd March—8.30-9.30pm
School Earth Hour
Friday 22nd March—12.30pm-1.30pm
SEC Green Team

Senior Seminar Program Schedule—14th February, 2013

Year 11
Period 2 Modern History; English
Period 3 Maths; Modern History