Principal’s Message

I was delighted to hear that Jayden was successful in gaining a 4 Year Horticultural Apprenticeship with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney. Gaining an apprenticeship with the Royal Botanic Gardens is extremely competitive and highly sought after and Jayden’s TAFE teacher confirmed that they receive approximately 700 applications for just 7 positions that they filled this year. Jayden’s Work Experience and Careers Education helped him achieve this great outcome.

Congratulations also go to Aaron upon his selection in the Sydney East Region Individual Tennis State Championships in early March. Likewise I am delighted to note that Ethan has been once again selected in the Sydney Baseball team. He is a powerhouse of talent and we wish him well.

The Learning Support Team including Mrs Cooper, Mrs Mundy, Mrs Wakely, Mrs Wild and Mrs Hennessy completed case conferences with all Year 8 and 12 students on the learning support case load. The reasons students require additional support are many and varied but our personalized annual planning and review meeting inform individual education plans for the special accommodations teachers and students need to make in order to ensure that everyone thrives and can do their best. It was a wonderful process that was well organised and well supported.

I have received some follow up regarding our concerns about pedestrian safety on Old Illawarra Road. Four options were discussed with a preference for signals being provided at the intersection and relocating the bus stop north of Oriana Drive. This is the highest cost option. I fully support this option in that it manages pedestrians accessing the bus service as well as those walking home and needing to cross the road. I am concerned that there is a move to limit student access to the bus service. While this may be necessary during the construction phase it would create huge problems in the longer term, particularly for seniors on flexible 8am-5pm timetables and during exam periods requiring flexibility and access to transport. Emails expressing your concerns should be shared with Bruce Powe the Traffic and Transport Manager for Sutherland Shire Council at BPowe@ssc.nsw.gov.au or Paul.McNeill@rma.nsw.gov.au Many voices make a difference because they share the many factors that can impact on the safety and wellbeing of our children.

Congratulations to the great Year 7 Orientation Dinner team led by Robynne Challinor and Mr Lindsay. It was a great night all round.

If you are worried about cyber bullying you are part of a big club. This is a speech by Year 12 student Brooke when she spoke to a full school assembly about her 2012 role on the National Youth Advisory Commission on Cyber Safety. “Cyber safety is a key issue in many schools across Australia with many children being immediately affected by the consequences of using the internet inappropriately. On the 28th-29th of July last year, I represented Menai high along with 297 other students from Queensland, NSW and Victoria at the youth advisory commission’s Cyber Safety Conference held in Canberra. Here I took part in workshops that allowed me to learn how to handle cyber bullying and how to keep safe while on the internet.

The internet is a global tool that when in the right hands can be used for increasing knowledge and keeping in touch with friends. But that’s not to say that everyone on the internet has good intentions. I was shown various explicit images and videos that were harmlessly sent via the internet, by children who didn’t think that it was wrong to do so. Many of these children then ended up in hospitals and some ending their lives due to the harsh bullying and backlash that soon followed. When posting something on the internet, you must remember that even if you delete it, it is there forever, for everyone to see.

Keeping safe on the internet means that you should never reveal your personal information to people you don’t know. It seems pretty simple, an act of common sense, but you wouldn’t believe the increased number of children and young adults who don’t use safe practices on the web, which can lead to the grooming and possible prey of students.

Grooming is defined as “actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child, in order to lower the child’s inhibitions in preparation for sexual activity with the child”. Little did you know that the young boy you think you are talking to, is a 45 year old man, planning an attack on you.

All I hope to achieve today by me speaking is that you think twice about adding someone on facebook that you don’t know, or think about the consequences of sending photos or personal information. Once it on the internet it never comes back off.

I would personally like to thank the SRC for their support towards me, and their help in partaking in surveys and online tasks to help me along the way. I would also like to encourage you, if you have any issues on the internet to approach me or any teacher around the school, and we can help put it to an end.

Just remember, just because their profile picture is a hot young guy, or a pretty looking girl, doesn’t mean that an old man or woman is preying on vulnerable children is sitting behind the monitor.”

These are wise words worth heeding.

E McNALLY

Deputy Principal’s Message

Parent Information Nights on Assessment

Letters were handed out last Wednesday to Year 11 and Year 10 concerning the assessment information nights. Year 11 meeting will be held on 27th February 6-8pm in the school hall and Year 10 on 15th March also in the school hall. Students from both Year 11 and Year 10 are required to bring their laptops to the meeting. I have sent both Year 11 and Year 10 an email with a copy of the Menai High Assessment Policy and Assessment Schedule. Year 11 has been very busy recently adjusting to senior school. I am very pleased to see the results Year 11 gained for the Menai High Preliminary Assessment quiz and last years test on All My Own Work. Many of the students achieved full marks. Let’s hope the students will remember where they access the correct information concerning assessment and issues covered in the All My Own Work course.

Year 11 Change of course

Year 11 will be given the opportunity to make changes to their pattern of study in Week 5. This will take place on Thursday 28th during sport time. 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. Students are asked to think very carefully about their selections as this is the final opportunity to change.

All Yr 11 changes are to be completed by the end of week 5.

R ALLEN

IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS

| Wednesday 27/2 | Year 11 Assessment Information Night |
| Monday 4/3 | Zone Swimming Carnival |
| Tuesday 5/3 | School Photos |
| Wednesday 6/3 | Open Night |
| Friday 8/3 | 25th Anniversary Dinner |
Welfare News!

Motivational Media
Last week, all students in Years 7-10 viewed the media presentation “MAD for Life”. It was a powerful presentation that contained many valuable messages about making a difference in our lives and the lives of others. It focused on facing challenges, making wise decisions and being aware of how we can help others. Hopefully, it will help students to navigate through life in a positive direction.

Awards
It is fantastic to see so many students registering for a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Diamond Award. It reflects their motivation, initiative and commitment to their studies. You can still sign up for an award if you haven’t done so already. See Mrs Hatzi in Room 5 at the beginning of lunch. Give it a go! Everyone can achieve at least one Bronze Award.

Easter Show Excursion
Students who have received a Principal’s Award in the last year and Year 7 students who have received 6 merit certificates will be eligible to attend a reward excursion to the Easter Show on Saturday 28th March.

It will cost $20 to attend which covers entry and private coach travel. There will be 53 tickets available. Permission notes will be distributed in mid March, so there’s plenty of time to earn those merit certificates.

Lice
We were notified last week that nits had been found in student’s hair. It is important that all parents check their child’s hair so that further spreading can be avoided. Very effective preparations can be purchased from the pharmacy if nits are discovered which makes their eradication very quick and very easy.

Year 7 and Year 11 Workshop
On Tuesday, Year 7 students will attend a presentation by a guest speaker called “Big Fish, Little Fish” which focuses on the challenges that students face as they transition into high school. As well, Year 11 will attend a presentation on stress management to provide them with strategies as they confront the challenges of senior school.

Student Absences
A reminder to parents that if your child did not attend the swimming carnival on 13th February, then a note, phone call, SMS message must be sent to the school to explain this absence.

Finally, congratulations to Natalie, Sarah (Year 11), Jordan, Katy - (Year 10) and Timothy (Year 8) who received the Care and Commitment Award for Term 4, 2012.

K Mundy
Head Teacher, Welfare

25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
Friday 8th March, 2013
Revesby Workers Club
Tickets $50 each (ticket holders must be 18 years and over).
To purchase tickets using Paypal, follow the link on our facebook page—facebook.com/mhs25th. Or alternatively, please send a cheque made out to Menai High School P&C to the school no later than 27th February, 2013.

Sports News
Congratulations to all the students who attended the School Swimming Carnival. The School Swim Team for the Sutherland Zone Carnival is displayed on the sports noticeboard at school. All students must see Mr Robinson for a note and program and pay $10 to the office. The carnival is on Monday 4th March at Sutherland Pool starting at 8.45am. Students can either make their own way to the pool or they can catch the bus. The bus will leave at 7.50am sharp.
Carolyn was selected at the end of last year to represent Sydney East at the NSWCHS Softball Titles to be held at Mudgee.
Ethan was last week selected in the Regional Baseball Team and will compete at the NSWCHS Titles in March. Ethan was also a member of the NSW U18 Baseball Team that recently won the Australian Titles.
Congratulations to all students, and also to those students who are achieving outstanding results in their sporting field out of school. A reminder that the Sydney East Regional Sports Calendar and trial information can be found on the following website: www.sports.det.nsw.edu.au The Sutherland Sports Zone website can be found at sessazones.com

M Robinson, Sports Organiser

‘SRE’ or Special Religious Education Program
Menai High School is starting a ‘SRE’ or Special Religious Education Program. This is a great opportunity for both Years 7 and 8 to explore the Ideas of the Christian faith in an open, educational and non forceful way. ‘SRE’ is for everyone of all religions and cultures and is a fortnightly class that will allow the students to explore their beliefs.

P Jones, SRE Teacher

Clean Up Australia Day 2013
School Day 1st March
Community Day 3rd March
SEC Green Team

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—28th February, 2013
Year 11
Period 2 English Standard, IT/IPT, Legal Studies, Visual Arts
Period 3 Legal Studies, Maths General
Period 4 ESL English

Student Exchange Programs
Southern Cross Cultural Exchange—volunteer to host an international high school student in July 2013—visit website www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call toll free 1800 500 501
World Education Program (WEP) Australia—students can choose to study and live with a carefully selected host family in more than 25 countries or become a host family. Find out more by visiting www.wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733