**Principal's Message**

It is not only current Menai High School students that continue to amaze and delight everyone through their care, commitment and achievements but also many past students who have capitalized on the strong foundations established at school and through family life in our wonderful area. 2008 graduate Robert recently featured on the front cover of a very popular US magazine due to an incredibly successful career in mixed martial arts. This week we were honoured and delighted to host 2009 graduate Blake and his Sydney F.C. team mate Trent McClenanahen. Both are professional and elite soccer players in the National A-League Competition. We are very proud that Blake has extended the elite athleticism he displayed at school into his professional work life. We were very privileged to have him come and talk about his experiences as a professional soccer player and offer advice to students which emphasized the importance of school and sport. Both players were also very supportive of the “Harmony through Education” program which fits perfectly into our school’s philosophy “Harmony through Education”. Blake is studying Financial Planning in addition to being a full time footballer. He explained that he needs and wants to be totally prepared for his future beyond football. He also shared the best advice he has ever been given, namely, “give 100% to everything you do”. This is another great bit of advice for everyone in every setting.

The Sutherland Credit Union continues to support the “Artist in Residence Program” in 25 schools around the Sutherland Shire. This program had its origins at Menai High School when artist Ken Tucker and art teacher Mr Kelly mapped out a very innovative program which allowed art students of all ages to experience collaborative art practices with their teachers and a professional artist. The outcomes have been outstanding in their creativity and capacity to highlight the many vocational pathways available to those interested in the arts. Currently Year 10 and 11 Visual Art students are undertaking AIR Project which will create another large mural for display in the hall.

Sarah is an amazing Year 11 student with a clear and honourable social conscience. She secured SRC assistance to promote and deliver a great fund raiser – supporting stage 2 of our solar panel project. We all wish to acknowledge her efforts and thank her. Aisha has successfully auditioned for the State Junior Drama Ensemble. This is a challenging process and a prestigious selection. We wish Aisha well and look forward to her performances. I received a wonderful email from a member of the public wishing to recognize his very positive experiences with our students when they crossed paths at the Miranda Blood Bank. He praised their behaviour and was really impressed with one of our girls volunteering assistance and help in the cafe. I am very proud of our students and love to hear how much they and our youth and all they give. Ms Prince’s 10G3 class are currently studying “waste management” and as a class have decided to “adopt the quad” and clean up after lunch. This is a wonderful gift to a school community that is not skilled at owning and managing their own mess. The Cockies are still pesky and messy but really it is an area where we would value family assistance through family discussion. Thank you 10G3. You are setting a great example and standard.

We expect that this is everyone’s story but if it isn’t don’t hesitate to talk to either the year advisers, Mrs Mundy, the Counsellor, either Deputy Principal or myself. We work tirelessly to make sure that every student feels safe, happy and supported so that they can do their best.

Congratulations also go to Caitlin, Tanya, Emily, Blake, Cameron, Olivia, Same and Natalie all of whom have achieved Principal’s Awards for their effort and achievements recognised through 20 merit certificates from at least four faculties. Well done each and everyone of you. Likewise congratulations go to students selected to join various Sydney East Region teams which will compete in NSWCHSSA events. These include Kyle, Aaron and Thibaut in basketball, Daniel in swimming and Joel and Jonah in Touch. We wish them well.

Finally I am delighted to announce that we now are the registered owners of our Trade Mark 1501982. This is a valuable registration which the school values to protect as we do for all things Menai High School.

E McNALLY

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**IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS**

- **Friday 12/4**: Year 12 Exams conclude, Last Day of Term
- **Monday 29/4**: Staff Development Day
- **Tuesday 30/4**: Staff Development Day
- **Wednesday 1/5**: All Students Return—Week B

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**Contact Information**

- Website: www.menai-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
- Phone: 9543-7000
- Email: menai-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
- Fax: 9543-5513
Welfare News!

Congratulations to the following students who have impressed their teachers with their hard work and positive attitude.

From the HSIE faculty, Mrs Monir congratulates Olivia, Cameron, Callum and Tina of 8N for their excellent work on ‘World Heritage’ assignment. Ms Blaylock also commends Year 9 Geography students Emily Lu, Alexandra, George, Ben and Nicoletta for their fantastic Communities Task.

Ms Frages recognizes Prudence and Claire of Year 9 for their excellent media work at the Year 7 camp and athletics carnival.

School Vaccinations

The second vaccination clinic will occur this Wednesday 10th April.

For Year 7, girls and boys will receive their 2nd dose of HPV and Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine which is a single dose. Students in Year 7 who missed the first clinic in February can receive the catch up vaccinations for HPV, Hepatitis B and Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whooping Cough.

For Year 9 boys, they will receive dose 2 HPV and any catch up of HPV missed on the first visit.

If any Year 7 or Year 9 (boys only) students require a consent card, then they can get one from Mrs Mundy but must return it by Wednesday in order to receive vaccinations.

Absence from School on Tuesday 26th March

Parents are reminded that if your child did not attend the Athletics Carnival on Tuesday 26th March, then a note, phone call or sms explaining this absence must be sent to the school. Otherwise, it will be recorded as an unjustified absence on their attendance record.

ALERT!

Please be advised that we have a student who is currently receiving medical treatment for cancer and will be attending school on occasions while he is undergoing treatment.

As a consequence of treatment, his ongoing health is at risk if he comes into contact with an infectious disease. Please alert the school immediately if your child has chicken pox, measles or mumps. They should not be sent to school if they have an infectious disease.

K MUNDY
Head Teacher, Welfare

Get ready to Earn & Learn! Woolworths’ Community Program starts on Monday 8th April!

Last year our school community did a great job of collecting points and we were able to purchase some furniture and books for the school library, drums for our Drumming Band, Lego Robotic kits for our Computing faculty, a vertical planter system for our Agriculture students and lots of stationery items for student and display use. So, a big thank you to everyone who helped to collect stickers. We’d love it if you can do the same this year.

From Monday 8th April, when you shop at Woolworths you can collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points from the checkout operator and place them on a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet. There’ll be 1 Woolworths Earn & Learn Point for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, cigarettes and gift cards). Once completed, students should place their Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet in the Collection Box, either at school in the library or at your local Woolworths.

D COOPER, Head Teacher Learning Support/Librarian

Disability Provisions for the 2013 HSC Examinations

Students are reminded that applications for provisions for the HSC examinations for students with a disability are due to be submitted by the end of Term 1 (Friday 12th April, 2013). You will need to see Mrs Frages on Tuesday 9th April if you wish to apply for a disability provision such as a writer, rest break, etc.

D COOPER, Head Teacher Learning Support

P&C News

As has been indicated in previous newsletters, there has been much discussion and consultation regarding the proposed traffic management along Old Illawarra Road.

The preferred option of the P&C is to relocate the bus stop from its current location to north of Oriana Drive, and to provide a pedestrian crossing with ‘on demand’ traffic lights. This way, the safety of our students will be drastically improved, and the traffic flow for local drivers will not be adversely affected outside of the school ‘peak hour’. However, these improvements are unlikely to happen in a timely fashion unless we continue to lobby the relevant managing bodies.

Emails expressing your concerns should be directed to Bruce Powe - BPowe@ssc.nsw.gov.au (Traffic and Transport Manager for Sutherland Shire Council) and/or Paul McNeill Paul.McNEILL@rms.nsw.gov.au at RMS.

Many voices make a difference because they share the many factors that can impact on the safety and wellbeing of our children.

Robynne Challiner, P&C President

Important Dates

Term 2

School Development Days—Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th April

Students return on 1st May, 2013—Week B

Subject Selection Information Night Year 8 and Year 10

8th May—6pm

Senior Seminar Program Schedule—11th April, 2013

Year 11

Period 2 English Standard, Geography, IT/IPT, Visual Arts

Period 3 Geography, Maths 2U

Period 4 ESL English