Principal’s Message

I write this newsletter from Osaka in Japan having enjoyed great safety and care as a typhoon passed over in the past 24 hours. I have been working with the NSW “DEC International” which markets and coordinates International Programs for NSW Government Schools. I have been travelling with their marketing manager Jason Ford visiting schools and Korean and Japanese agents that organise “Study Abroad” and “Study Tours” to Australia and NSW in particular. The timing of this trip has enabled us to attend highly successful trade exhibitions organised by Austrade for the Korean and Japanese education markets. International education earned NSW over $60 million last year and earned over $60,000 for our school in the last year. It is an export trade of great significance both locally and nationally and hence the energy and effort put in by myself, the DEC and the federal government through the efforts of Austrade. I believe that this delegation involving private and public schools, TAFE, Universities and a range of other providers from across Australia will consolidate Australia’s position in a very competitive international education market and see many students and study tour groups come to Australia and Menai in the next 12 months.

There is clear evidence of a great momentum and energy for change in Japanese education. The Japanese are seeking to reverse what they refer to as “the lost two decades” and they see education as their road to their desired future. Japanese classes are reminiscent of our schools in the past. They have 40 students per class, little technology and teachers that deliver information rote learned by students.

This year they have declared 80 schools that will be “Super Global High Schools”. Their priority will be to focus on Science, Technology and the internationalisation of education through teaching English and using 21st century learning strategies initially in the super global schools but eventually in all schools. Likewise the universities are being internationalized and seeking partnerships with high schools and industry.

Many schools and agents were very interested in becoming our partners through sending students to do the HSC with us or to develop study tours which allow them to experience digitally enhanced Project Based Learning as practices at Menai. The “Exit Outcomes” that underpin everything we do really resonated with schools, agents and education authorities in Japan. Above everything else they were “blown away” by our unique resources and programs, particularly the solar panel project, the farm, the boat, putt putt golf course, electronic whiteboards in all rooms and all of the many other things that make us the wonderful school that we are.

I feel very honoured to have had the opportunity to serve our school, the DEC and Australia in this way. As interesting as it all was I can’t wait to be back where I belong in Menai High School. I could never have generated so much interest if Menai students, staff and community were not the innovative learning community that you are. What Menai High School is, is exactly what the new Super Global High Schools aspire to be. To share our journey and experiences with Japanese partners is mutually beneficial in that it presents opportunities for Menai students and teachers to reflect on our practices and how we need to remain innovative if we are to continue surging ahead. It also allows our students to reap the benefits of internationalisation, particularly the capacity to be global citizens in a shrinking world filled with untold opportunities. And finally, the financial benefits for our school mean that more resources become available to support and enhance teaching and learning at Menai High School.

Japanese parents and students value “Home Stays” with Australian families almost as much as school based experiences. If you have capacity or know somebody with capacity in their homes please let myself or Mrs Sayed-Rich know. This is a great opportunity for parents and families to support this great cause and our fantastic school.

E McNally

Deputy Principal’s Message

We have hit this term running with a great number of activities and events.

Our Year 12 students have completed the first week of the HSC Examinations. This period has included examinations like English, Hospitality, Industrial Technology, Ancient History, PHIL, IPT, Dance and music. Our students have appeared confident when exiting the examinations and have reported that they felt that the examinations were fair and that they were well prepared.

During Week 1 we had the Art Show displaying the wonderful art works including paintings, prints, photography, videos and sculptures that our talented students produced under the guidance of their creative and committed teachers. The display was complemented by background music and singing provided by some of our Music students and delicious canapes and espresso coffee provided by our Hospitality students. I would like to encourage all families to visit the show next year. The atmosphere was inviting and the art works inspiring to all budding artists.

We completed the week by holding a meeting during assembly time to reflect on Personal Learning Plans written by each student at the beginning of the year and used this reflection to develop strategies to focus on and prepare for the Yearly Examinations in which students will be completing in only a few weeks’ time. Students are encouraged to use the Study Timetable and Study Scaffolds, located in the Study Tours section of the School website, to assist them with their preparation for the Yearly Examinations.

The Year 11 students had a wonderful three days at camp this week. They strengthened their relationships within the whole year group and further developed their skills to work effectively as a team which are invaluable to their success in the following year.

I would like to remind all students of their responsibility to wear full school uniform at all times despite the sudden cold and wet snap. Our uniforms ensure that students conform to safety regulations. This applies especially to leather shoes to protect feet in practical areas such as food labs, science laboratories and workshops. Also when students wear our uniform it identifies them with our school and gives a positive impression of the school and its students to the broader public.

I wish everyone a happy and successful Term 4.

N Vickery, Relieving Deputy Principal

IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20/10</td>
<td>HSC Exams continue until 5th November. Dental Van</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27/10</td>
<td>Literacy &amp; Numeracy Test Years 10,11,12</td>
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<td>Tuesday 28/10</td>
<td>Literacy &amp; Numeracy Test Years 10,11,12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29/10</td>
<td>Literacy &amp; Numeracy Test Years 10,11,12</td>
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Ms Wearring would like to congratulate Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, Imogen Boughhey, Laura Croan, Megan Shipp, Chelsea Burgess, Elizabeth Faust, Reece Holmewood, Maddison Jones, Maya Kilic, Rachael Lee, Vicki Milekovic, Madeleine Norris and Caitlin Tullis for their excellent Stolen Generations essay.

Miss Blaylock would like to acknowledge Jayden Collins, Elizabeth Golikova, Brooke Jerrett and Martin Li from Society and Culture for doing well in their yearly examination.

Well done from Ms De Mello to Katherine Hensler, Isabella Miletich, Melina Thompson and Christina Tsafis for outstanding 9SAM mythology assignment.

Congratulations from Ms Kerr to Alexis Condon, Laura Fermanov, Jessica Head, James Papadopolous, Ethan Patterson, Hope Sestanovic, Dani Belani, Mackenzie Chegwidden, Natasha Harvey, Oliver Jones, Jarred Murarotto for excellent creative work in History when producing the Black Death journal task.

Well done to Marissa Kotsaris and Loreena Wells from Ms Mazoudier for great results in the Ancient History yearly examination.

Student Eye Clinic
Student Eyecare will be at Menai High School in Term 4 to carry out eye tests on any student interested in the program, starting from week 4. Notes need to be completed and handed in to roll call teachers by the end of Week 2 Term 4. Students will not be able to participate in the program if the note is not returned.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this program or alternatively you can go to www.studenteyecare.com.au to read about the program.

Wellbeing and Wisdom

AMDC
Have you returned your consent form for the dental clinic? The Australian Mobile Dental Clinic will arrive at our school this week, but it’s not too late to sign up! Your child has the opportunity to visit the dentist during school hours and x-rays, exams and photos are free through Medicare. Many families also qualify for the ‘grow up smiling’ program, which provides funding for a variety of other dental treatments. See the consent form for more information. Please contact Ms Hatzi or Ms Kavouras if you need another form or you have any questions or concerns.

Ms Hatzi and Ms Kavouras
The Wellbeing Wisdom Team

Sports News

Congratulations to Maddie Lawrence who recently became NSW State Champion in Ice Dance. Maddie also won a gold medal in the synchronised ice skating teams event. Maddie has now been selected to compete at the Australian Figure Skating Championships which will be held in Brisbane at the end of November.

Congratulations Maddie and all the best at the national titles.

Congratulations also goes to James Walker in Year 9. James competed at the National Karate Championships that were held in Perth in July this year. At these championships, James’ outstanding ability and skill in Karate resulted in him winning the Australian title, crowning him National Champion for 2014. James was then selected to compete at the Oceania Karate Championships in September where he finished second overall.

Congratulations again to James and Maddie on these truly outstanding results.

K Newman, Sports Organiser