Parent Newsletter

Principal’s Message
I was delighted to have a member of the public, who was fundraising by selling poppies for Remembrance Day, contact me to report that she was amazed by a wonderful group of Menai High School students on excursion in the city. It was indeed Caitlin Angus, Jackson Downer, Keeley Hickey, Emily Willmore and Joshua Towell on a Society and Culture excursion with their teachers Ms Blaylock and Ms May. What she found to be really impressive was that the entire group were ultra polite, listened and chatted on their way to their destination and then everyone of them contributed their own money and bought a poppy each. Our shared children, even the grown up ones, are truly delightful, caring and helpful and we in the Menai Community can be justly proud.

Last Tuesday, November 4th was a really big and momentous day for me and I want to share some “life learning” that applies to everyone.

The first big event was my training to use the new DEC “Business Intelligence” system. This is a powerful data warehouse and search engine that allows me to access all DEC data relating to Menai High School students as they journey from pre school to getting an ATAR. It is going to make for truly informed decision-making processes in our school. The training process provided me with a glimpse of the future “life-long learning” that will be required of everyone regardless of position or job. To even attend the training I needed to complete two extensive training programs on line. Each was tested and required an 80% pass mark to progress to the live training. The live training required extensive case study, practice and another test with randomized questions to ensure that it really was individual testing.

Similarly I had just completed my required upgrade Anaphylaxis training. This requirement applies to all school staff. We all completed four modules each with their own test which had 80% as the pass mark. The final unit required a 100% correct mark and any failure on this randomized test required the learner to go back and complete all five units and tests again. This will be the future for all workers where life long learning and testing happens not by choice but by requirement.

In the evening I was privileged to receive a Principals Award from the Director of Public Schools NSW at a wonderful event at the Town Hall. It was made even more wonderful because Menai student Bradley Jarvis and future student Marina Knijnik were performing on the night and made me feel very special. Their family support was lavished on me as well and I was so very grateful. This is my first award and while I don’t do what I do for awards, it was wonderful to reflect, smile and feel appreciated. This is my first award and while I don’t do what I do for awards, it was wonderful to reflect, smile and feel appreciated.

I would encourage everyone to follow my example of “always doing my best” and thereby gaining great pleasure from the rewards that sometimes come our way.

Because I was in the Town Hall I also had the opportunity to write in Gough Whitlam’s condolence book which was on display for his opportunity to give so much.

This was a special day with very special messages that relate to us all.

E McNally

Deputy Principal’s Message
The HSC has now finished for our Year 12 2014. I would like to thank all the Year 12 teachers for the outstanding efforts in supporting the students through the HSC. As the year for Year 12 closes the school will still be supporting the cohort when results and decisions need to be made. Support staff will be available to assist students in the clearance process and if students need help in applying university or employment. Year 12 have their clearance day on Friday the 21st November. On clearance day students are required to return any equipment or resources that are owned by the school, complete any outstanding subject contributions and hand in any travel passes.

We are also asking Year 12 to donate uniforms and or the DER laptop. These resources are very helpful for the school as they can help to support other students. Year 12 are also invited to the ATAR BBQ on Thursday 18th December. A note was given to each student on graduation day. The BBQ starts at 1pm. This is a wonderful event as it is a time for students to celebrate and share with teachers their achievements.

This week junior exams will continue. Year 9 start exams later this week, Year 10 Week 7. Year 10 have received a letter explaining during this examination period students only attend school when they have an examination scheduled. This is to model what examinations periods are like in the senior school. Please check your child’s timetable and set up systems to ensure that revision/study has been attempted and is adequate for these formal exams and that the days and times of exams are well noted on the family calendar.

A reminder, if any Year 10 student experiences and illness or misadventure during the examination period the student must complete an MHS Illness/Misadventure form. Evidence of the illness must be attached to the application. Year 10 teachers have a very tight turn around for NSW BOS RoSA grades that rescheduling exams will be highly improbable. Students will need to discuss any illness/misadventure with Mrs Allen, Mr Scott or the Head Teacher of the subject.

The 2015 timetable is currently being constructed and part of that process is class placement. I noted that many students reflect in their PLP’s this year that placement in the extension classes was a goal. This examination period is one of the final assessment times for many subjects. Students need to be revising their work ready for their exams and so they can attempt to reach their academic goal. Good luck to all students during the final assessment period.

R Allen, Deputy Principal
Welfare News!

A great week of student good news. Ms Scevity would like to congratulate 10H6 for their well-constructed Stolen Generations essays.

From the HSIE Faculty Ms May would like to acknowledge 7E History for always working to the best of their ability. Well done to Erin Isaacs from Miss Blaylock for impressive work on the PIP. Ms Hamilton would like to say congratulations to 10GEO6 for working maturely and being engaged in class.

Miss Rozga would like to commend 8TAFT1 and 8TAFT7 on their effort and restaurant quality meals in the ‘Multicultural’ practical assessment. Mrs Shales and Ms Frages congratulate 7TAFT4 on excellent planning for the Party practical. Well done to 7TAFT2 for excellent promotional material for a children’s party, and to 7TAFT12 for outstanding themed children’s party from Mrs Liley.

The PE faculty would like to congratulate Olivia Cooper, Lachlan Wilmore, James Walker, Tayla Nisbet and Victoria Angus from Year 9 for outstanding results in the PASS Body Systems examination.

Eye Appointments
The eye clinic will begin Next Tuesday. Students who have indicated that they would like an appointment will be called up during school time. Appointments will be placed in rolls and reminders given on the day. Any questions please contact me.

Ms Y Mazoudier, Head Teacher Welfare

Wellbeing and Wisdom

The junior exam week is about to begin and many students have got their studying underway using the study timetable templates which are available on the Menai High School website. However, if you are looking for some more resources to assist your child’s home revision, there are many available through their student portal or the Department of Education website. One of the best is TaLe4students. Students can access it through their student portal. It is a compilation of revision materials from all KLA’s in the form of notes, tutorials, games, web links, essay scaffolds etc all linked to the NSW curriculum. The following web address will take you to TaLe4students as well as many other useful websites for students in Year 7-12.


L. Ferraro and the Wellbeing Wisdom Team

Free Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshops for Learner Driver Parents in the Sutherland Shire

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes. That’s why the Roads and Maritime Services has introduced a new licensing scheme, with more supervised driving practice for learner drivers.

To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the Roads and Maritime Services has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents that offers practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

A FREE parents’ workshop will be conducted by David Riches and hosted by Sutherland Shire Council on Wednesday November 26 at Sutherland Shire Council Offices in Eton Street from 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm.

Early bookings are essential, by phoning Council on 9710 0341 now to reserve your place, or email mstuart@ssc.nsw.gov.au

Menai High School Performing Arts Night

Again, to celebrate Performing Arts at MHS for 2014 we are having our End of Year Dance/Music Showcase, displaying the many talents of our students.

Date: Thursday 4th December
Time: 7pm
Venue: School Hall
Ticket Prices: Adult - $10, Child/Pensioner - $5 and Family of four - $25

Note: Tickets can be purchased at the front office and will also be sold at the door from 6pm on the night of the performance.

Senior Seminar Program Schedule — 13th November, 2014

Period 2   Ancient History, English (Advanced), ESL, Maths (Ext 1)
Period 3   Ancient History, English (Standard), Maths (General), PDHPE (Mandatory Assessment), Physics
Period 4   Ancient History, Biology, PDHPE (Mandatory Assessment)