Principal's Message

Last week was another big and amazing week. Mrs Allen organized an outstanding leadership development conference for head teachers and team leaders from Community of Schools Between the Rivers schools, Bangor, Lucas Heights Community School, Allords Point, Illawong, Tharawal and Menai Public. As a public school group we offer the best K-12 education in the area and I believe the state because we work together in order to serve students in all years K-12 the very best opportunities. Anne Leafe led us to better use our leadership skills in analyzing learning data in a way that informs our planning and delivery of enhanced learning for everyone. It was an outstanding day that will pay great dividends.

Two videos from Menai High School were screened at the 2014 Colourfest Harmony Day. This was screened at Cronulla Cinema on Friday evening and it was a gala event for Nicole, Chelsea and Rahmeli. The project “Everyone Comes From Somewhere” was completed with the Sutherland Shire Council and we are delighted with the results.

I am sharing my submission to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding because we all need to work together to ensure that a full six years of benefits from the Gonski Report would add $5.1 million dollars to Menai High School’s capacity to teach your children over the next six years. The reverse is that we will lose the benefit of $5.1 million over the next six years if Gonski is not affirmed and implemented.

“Menai High School is located in southern Sydney (within the Sutherland Shire) and has an enrolment of almost 1,200 students, 84 teaching staff and 16 non-teaching staff. Our students come from a diversity of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds (LBOTE 28%).

1. Additional learning support with our case load.
2. Teaching support for all students.
3. Increase curriculum diversity.
4. Enhance the wellbeing and safety for all students and staff.
5. Lower some class sizes to enhance learning by employing additional support teacher team.
6. Provide additional release time for members of our Well Being team.
7. Continue with the after school homework club.
8. Expand Learning Centre assistance.
9. Employ speech pathologist for two days a week.
10. Employ additional ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher time.
11. Employ additional School Counsellor time.
12. Employ additional LST (learning Support) time.
13. Increased training for all staff.
15. Employ additional specialist teachers.
16. Offer training to parents to help their children.

The six year Gonski agreement is the promised commitment of both the federal and state governments to provide additional funding to enable all schools to reach the schools resourcing standard (SRS). The final two years (five and six) of the Gonski agreement are vital at almost two-thirds of the entire extra funding are delivered in this period to reach the SRS.

Teaching and learning programs require both guaranteed long term and sustainable funding if our objectives are to be achieved. At this school, a four year commitment is simply not enough to plan our future. We need the full six years of funding that will sustain program continuity and therefore achieve quality learning outcomes for all our children and guarantee Australia’s long term future. Submitted by the Principal on behalf of Menai High School, Friday 14th March, 2014.”

The Science faculty launched the Menai High School HSC Science High Performance Program last week. This is an exciting innovation which will extend to other faculties in future years. I congratulate the entire Science team—Mr Scott, Ms Bourke, Mr Constance, Mr McNell, Ms Loh, Mr Bean, Mr Colella, Mrs Safarik, Ms Bessell, Ms Karoubas, Mr Morgan and Ms Hanna who is a specialist teacher for Gifted and Talented students.

A wonderful email confirmed yet again the goodness of our students—“Good evening. I was at Menai this afternoon on the way home from work to do some shopping. I live at Sutherland. I was at Bakers Delight and a lady was buying bread and dropped a $2 coin and it went under a lady’s stroller. The lady bought her goods and a nice young man picked up the coin and handed it to the lady. It was just a small thing but a nice thing to do. I noticed his school uniform from Menai High School. I said I work for the Education Department and I said he was a helpful young man. I asked the Principal’s name and he told me. The boy who picked up the coin was Luke and he was with his friend Lachlan. I thought I would write to you and perhaps if you like mention on assembly that community members do notice school students when they do a good kind deed no matter if it seems small. People noticed! They seemed nice and polite students.”

E McNALLY

Deputy Principal’s Message

The week has been extremely busy with a vibrant teaching and learning spirit everywhere across the school. The Learning Support Team (LST) Harmony Day for Year 10 students was held on the 19th of March, 2014 and I thank the parents who attended and provided us with their support and feedback in the development of their child’s Learning Support Plans. Other important whole school initiatives such as the implementation of the Personalised Learning Plans (PLP), E Diary, DEC Study Tours Program, sporting, leadership and extra-curricular activities have featured heavily this week with wonderful progress being made and a great opportunities for your child to manage their learning, set short and long term academic goals and share these with staff and family and continue to access the many whole school opportunities which allow development in a range of skills. I thank the PLP Team, LST Team and the Student & Well Being Team for their enthusiasm and professionalism in the implementation of these school events and initiatives. A group of budding film enthusiasts have formed and attended their very first excursion to a television studio with Film Maker Mr Allan Ellis at Miranda this week. The students from Years 7-11 learned about how to use the studio camera’s, sound, lighting and computer equipment and have commenced planning for a Film piece which they wish to enter into a Film competition later in the year. The students are highly engaged in the process and worked collaboratively and creatively with their ideas and as a team in this extra-curricular activity. I am looking forward to the final product and showcasing the team’s work—Janet, Vitoria, Cooper, Theodora, Byron, Jacques, Katrina, Elizabath, Alysha, Blake, Jodi, Dylan, Alexandra, Blake, Ethan, Nicolletta, Neha, Kayne, Jacob, Shanie and Samantha. The school Homework Centre operates every Tuesday afternoon in the Library and is currently well utilized by our students. Our Refugee Volunteer Program offers students from a refugee background the opportunity to access one on one support with their studies. I thank all of our community volunteers and acknowledge the valuable contribution they make to Menai High School.

Volunteering can quite often be ‘unseen’ by others. On that note, you would have noticed on our annual Open Night many student volunteers assisting in the diverse faculty displays around the school and without these student volunteers, the night would not have been a success. I thank them for the valuable contribution they make to our school and acknowledge their names in this week’s newsletter—Ziah, Bianca, Daniel, Alisa, Courtney, Morgan, Emma, Alexander, Maddison, Ganir, Alessandra, Helen, Brad, Nicole, Greta, Georgia, Prudence, Emily, Brianna, Emilia, Claudia and Chloe.

Please ensure that your child’s Personal Technology Device (PTD) is protected with a suitable cover and that they exercise care and responsibility when moving around the school with their PTD’s.

Finally, I wish Year 12 the best of luck as they prepare for and embark upon their half yearly examinations this term.

E SAYED-RICH
Good News
Lots of wonderful work is happening at Menai High School and this can be seen in the achievements being acknowledged this week.

To Prudence, Ethan, Megan, Maya, Elizabeth, Caitlin, Millie and Laura from Mrs Mundy’s Year 10 English class, congratulations for producing excellent descriptive responses on the novel ‘Lord of the Flies’. Also, to Emily, Patrick, Joseph and Cody for their responses on the novel ‘The Hunger Games’ and in Year 11, Jayden, Daniel, Adrian, Tamson and Vicky for great results in their poetry assessment task.

Thank you to Rebecca, Madison, Kaitlyn, Crystal and Lauren from Year 8 for their help with the Science demonstration on Open Night.

In PDHE Mrs Ras would like to acknowledge Adam, Mithell and Taylah from Year 8 for excellent effort in Athletics. For excellent results in fitness Mrs Robinson would like to congratulate Reece, Chloe, Jared, and Marika from Year 7, Alex, Julia and Jye from Year 8, Renee, Katherine and Hannah from Year 9 and Laura from year 10.

Well done to the Year 12 Exploring Early Childhood for excellent research on children and Gluten Intolerance, and the Year 11 class for great investigations into the effects of drugs on a newborn.

Ms Rozga would like to congratulate the selected Year 9 Food Technology students for their outstanding interpersonal skills when helping the Japanese exchange students in their cooking lesson.

Mrs Waugh would like to congratulate all of 9English2 for their outstanding effort on their visual presentations for conformity and non-conformity. Special mention goes to Leah, Kailee, Emily, Emilia, Elias, Thomas, Brooke, Rachael, Olivia, Haris, Braina, Maggie, hayleigh, Olivia, Tanya, Neya, Caitlin, Megan and Olivia.

Motivational Media
Motivational Media is on next week. This program uses media technology to focus on significant values and issues that teachers face when growing up. Years 7-10 will attend a performance on Wednesday 26th March during Period 4. The student will be $2 that will be collected on the day as they enter the performance. Please ensure that any children you have in these groups comes their $2. We asks that no large denomination notes come to school.

Vaccinations
The deadline for returning consent forms is this week. Please ensure that your child has returned the forms if you would like to have them vaccinated. Students are to return the forms through roll call by Friday 21st March. The first round of vaccinations will occur on Monday 31st March.

Reminder regarding contacting Year Advisers
Just a reminder to all parents that if you need to speak to or meet with year advisers or teachers, please ring first to talk to them and then make an appointment time. Year Advisers can often be on class or in other meetings and might not be available if you come to the school without any notice. It is also very important that if you need to find your child or see a teacher you must go to the front office and ask for assistance. We ask you not to walk through the playground or look for classrooms.

Y Mazoudier, Head Teacher, Welfare

E-Diary News
We are pleased to announce the launch of our e-diary to students! Having worked through the long process of integrating with the school timetabling system, we are currently uploading parent data. We estimate this will take approximately one week. Please keep an eye on your email; when you receive the invite you will be able to sign up for the e-diary.

If you wish to be a part of this program, you will need to have emailed the school with your details. However, it’s not too late to register. If you haven’t already done so, email us at the school on menai.h.school@det.nsw.edu.au with the following information in the order listed:

Email, First Name, Last Name, Child’s Email(s)

Please feel free to contact Mrs Hatzi, Mr Chiswell or Mr Kelly on 9543 7900 if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your patience as we work through this new system. We look forward to finalising the parent link to the e-diary!

K Newman, Sports Organiser

Sports News
There have been some amazing sporting achievements by Menai High School students in first term thus far. Earlier in the term we had a very successful swimming carnival at Revesby Pool with the largest number of competitors ever seen. This meant that we sent our strongest zone team in many years and achieved some fantastic results. Jon and Sarah did exceptionally well and were awarded Age Champions for the carnival.

A number of students are to be congratulated for gaining selection into Sydney East representative teams including: Ethan (Baseball), Madeleine (Basketball), Carolyn, Bridget and Alysha (Softball), Chris, Aaron, Cayle and Adam (Tennis) and Jack (Sydney East Lawn Bowls Academy).

Another fantastic performance was that of Adam who gained a place at a National Athletics competition after qualifying for High Jump at a NSW State Championship.

A very big thank you is to be extended to Kristi-Lyn who recently donated a number of brand new netballs to Menai High School. Donations such as this are always greatly appreciated and are another great example of the Menai community being positively involved in school activities.

K Newman, Sports Organiser

SRE
Last week was a wonderful time at camp with Year 7. A time of building relationships across the year group and pushing ourselves out of our comfort zone participating in outdoor recreation activities. I’m sure ‘Mud World’ was a first time experience for many! A reminder for all Year 7 and 8 you need a display folder for SRE. Please bring it to next lesson. Audacity is building each week—we have around 45/50 kids attending and 6 visiting Youth Leaders. Their messages are powerfully uplifting and our students are continually encouraged in their life journey. Every week is different as we focus on Identity. We have kept asking ourselves “What does it all mean? What is God trying to tell us? How are we called to live in the midst of all this? Without such questions our lives become numb and flat.” Come join us—Common Room—Wednesday lunchtimes.

M Bennett

ANSTO Report
On Thursday the 20th of February, Year 10 Enrichment Science and Year 11 Chemistry took a visit to ANSTO at Lucas Heights. We got a tour of the reactor and surrounding buildings. As well as the tour we got a lesson on how the reactor works and the science behind it. We also did two awesome experiments; we saw the reaction when Mentos is put into a Pepsi bottle, and another experiment using elephant toothpaste. We all learned a lot of very interesting things there and have all benefited from the trip. Thanks to Ms Bourke for organising the excursion.

Lavinia Meyer


day terms schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24/3</td>
<td>Indonesian School Visit (all week)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 31/3</td>
<td>Year 12 Exams begin (2 weeks); Indonesian School Visit (concludes Wednesday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28/4</td>
<td>Day 1 Term 2—School resumes for all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5/5</td>
<td>Formal Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 26/5</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—student free</td>
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Senior Seminar Program Schedule—27th March, 2014

**Year 11**

**Period 2**
- Business Services
- Business Studies
- Design 
- Technology, English (Standard), ESL, Industrial Technology (Timber/Auto) Information Technology Math (2U)

**Period 4**
- Business Studies
- All Day
- Biology Excursion