Principal's Message

Parents, staff and students of Menai, you are “the best”. Thanks to your efforts our local decision makers have decided to fund the safety measures that we have been asking for. This funding will provide passive protection for our students as they cross Illawarra Road. The funding has been provided by the state government and our local council will coordinate the agencies required to put in a lights assisted crossing that moves pedestrians toward a better placed bus stop. Melanie Gibbons and Steve Simpson have provided wonderful support in order to secure this greatly needed modification. Sutherland Council engineers advise that work will begin in the next few weeks. Well done everyone involved in going the extra mile to keep our students safe.

The Year 11 leadership team created a magic atmosphere through the Bandaged Bear Charity Breakfast they ran from 7-9am in the central quad last Friday. They used donated products to cook up the best eggs, bacon, variety breads and fruits to hundreds and hundreds of excited staff and students. It was a heart warming event for all involved. Well done and thank you Brittany, Kristen, Sian, Lauren, Emily, Scarlett, Marissa, Monique, Jordan, Caitlin, Sarah, Naomi, Keeley, Samantha, Jodi, Deearya, Sara, Joshua, Zak, Andrew, Jack, Son, Andrew, Jon and James.

I have also received a number of emails expressing concern about the after school chaos last Monday in the midst of the big storm, when roads were closed and buses were delayed 30-40 minutes. In response to this concern we have developed a strategy to be implemented in extreme weather. Students will be sheltered in the COLA and released to buses as they arrive. I am confident that this will serve everyone well in these extreme events.

The DEC has arranged to inspect all trees on the site and identified one to be isolated pending its removal. Family discussion about these safety measures will be of great benefit to our shared children.

Menai High is one of 229 schools trialling a new integrated software package designed to assist us manage the school. The new systems are not simple, easy or even functional at this stage and hence no fees letters have gone out. We are now in a position to give information about outstanding fees to those families who want to make their payments. Please feel free to contact the front office for fees information.

Year 7 have been spoken to as a year group regarding expected behaviour and recent incidents of “daking” other students, food throwing, inappropriate touching as a joke, bullying and aggressive behaviour. They were also reminded about expected behaviour during recess and lunchtime. A group of very immature boys were also cautioned very directly, while another group of four students received formal cautions and other consequences. Please report any ongoing issues to your child’s year advisers or the deputies if you are concerned for your son or daughter. We want to work together to nip these behaviours in the bud early.

36 fantastic students have registered for our Talented Sports Program. They thoroughly enjoyed participating in a great seminar organized by Mr Robinson last Friday. Guest speakers Corey Payne was a former elite sportsman and spoke about living as an elite athlete, time management and life after elite sport. Ex student Paul Ambrose shared some insights into life as a sports professional. Congratulations Brad, Cody, Josh, Cayle, Tiffany, Liam, Jasmin, Samuel, Zak, Christina, Dylan, Madeleine, Nour, Jon, Jessica, Iman, Cameron, Ben, Travis, Jye, Blake, Jesse, Pierce, Rachell, Joel, Alexandra, James, Caleb, and James.

Jarred, Brendan, Michael, Adam, Maddison, Renee, Jack, Bryce, James, Samantha and Jacob for having the insight and foresight to register for this great experience.

Last week students were riveted and engrossed by Motivational Media’s annual presentation. They presented a range of life stories highlighting the fact that everyone makes choices and these choices all impact on how each individual’s life story unfolds. Amongst others, students saw the drive and energy that motivated this year’s Young Australian of the Year. They saw the impact of choosing to drink on one young life. Motivational Media aims to get young people to aim high rather than low. Every student would benefit from revisiting some of these stories through family discussion. If you want to do them a favour ask your children to share their thinking about this experience. I am sure they will enjoy the retelling.

Year 10 Learning Support Review meetings were finalized last week. Parents and students joined the Learning Support Team in reviewing and evaluating their 2013 learning plans in order to develop their 2014 plan. These plans define the accommodations and modifications required to maximize their learning. It was a very enriching experience for all involved and I particularly want to share the appreciation everyone expressed for the work, effort and commitment of Mrs Wakely. She gathers progress reports for all students and led the planning that has made such a difference for those that need it.

E McNALLY

Deputy Principal’s Message

Personal Learning Plans

The last time I wrote in the newsletter I wrote about the Personal Learning Plans, last Friday was the big day. Each student in the school had the opportunity to complete a personal learning plan. This is an exciting program. Your child has been able to identify academic goals (areas of improvement) and with assistance from staff and Year 12 students, determined methods to work towards the goal.

Parents, we encourage you to talk with your child and help shape the plan. Your child will or has placed the plan on Moodle. Parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child’s plans with the teachers at Parent Teacher nights. Plans will be reviewed each term.

The Quick smart numeracy team (Mrs Vickery, Mr Robinson, Mrs Hennessey, Mrs Hamilton Mrs Ghosh and Ms O’Donnell) has completed the first training and plans have been implemented to start the program for Year 7 Term 2. All year 7 will do a numeracy pre-test and letters will be sent home for the students who have been selected in the program. This program is designed to help build the foundation skills in numeracy.

The HSC Science Gifted and Talented program is well under way and the getting very positive feedback from teachers and students. Year 12 exams have commenced and I wish all students good luck during the exams. A reminder if students become ill or have a misadventure during the exams must contact the school and speak to Ms Lewry or myself.

Currently our General Assistant Mr Sanders is on leave and has been replaced by Mr Conlon. The school welcomes Mr Conlon. The school recently had a Tree Assessment as part of the DEC procedures concerning tree safety. The arborist report will provide direction and actions for the school and department to act on and remove any hazards.

R ALLEN

IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 31/3</td>
<td>Year 12 Exams begin (2 weeks): Indonesian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7/11</td>
<td>School Visit (concludes Wednesday): Vaccinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20/4</td>
<td>Day 1 Term 2 — School resumes for all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 2/5</td>
<td>Formal Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 26/6</td>
<td>Staff Development Day — student free</td>
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**Welfare News!**

**Good News**
Another great week of achievements being acknowledged.

Mrs Liley would like to commend her 8TAFT4 class for being positive, supportive and on task. Also, well done to Mrs Liley and Mrs Shales Year 11 Exploring Childhood class for outstanding skills, patience and maturity displayed whilst caring for a simulated infant.

Well done to Olivia, Claudia and Georgia for an outstanding textiles project and folio work in Textiles Technology.

Well done to David, Elizabeth and George in 9Geo5 and Danielle, Marcus, Aaron, Blake, Amy and Jayden for displaying excellent research and ICT skills in their Changing Communities Assessment Task.

Congratulations to Victoria, Olivia, Katherine, Olivia, Isabella, Melina and Christina from Miss De Mello’s 9SAM class for outstanding power point presentations.

Miss Blaylock would like to acknowledge Raneem for showing improvement and producing work of a high standard the HSC Society and Culture course and to Elizabeth in the preliminary course for consistent in class discussion and a high standard of work.

Ms Hamilton would like to acknowledge Hayden and Sean for consistently producing work of a high standard in History.

Well done to Mrs Ferraro’s Year 11 Japanese class for excellent preparation for a task that led to outstanding oral presentations.

**Year 10 Study Skills Day**
Year 10 will be participating in study skills sessions on Tuesday 1st April. These sessions are invaluable to help students learn how to organise themselves, their time, their schoolwork and deal with stress as they prepare to enter the senior year of study or look towards TAFE and traineeships. We are looking forward to seeing all Year 10 attending and participating in the day.

**Motivational Media**
Students saw a powerful multimedia presentation on Wednesday discussing choices and the impact they can have on others around you and society as a whole. Students who were unable to pay their $2 are asked to pay at the office by Friday 4th April.

**The first round of vaccinations will occur on Monday 31st March**
Thanks to students in Years 7 and Year 9 who have handed in their forms. If a consent form has not been handed then your child will need to visit a local GP to have the injections done. Make up vaccinations will also be carried for students in year 8 who missed injections last year.

Y Mazoudier, Head Teacher, Welfare

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**Wellbeing Wisdom**

For students, the balancing of after school activities and weekend commitments, part-time work as well as family time is no easy feat. Year 12 students are currently feeling this stress the most as they are about to commence their Half Yearly Examinations.

It is an excellent opportunity for parents to consider ways in which you could assist your child to strengthen their school-based outcomes by preparing a term planner to chart assessment tasks, exams, homework and study as well as non-school commitments.

Exam stress can be overwhelming for some students and this may prevent students achieving their full potential. An excellent resource providing insight and specific strategies to minimise exam stress, focusing on a healthy body a healthy mind, can be found at the following link:


The RMIT University provides an excellent time management resource which can also assist students better manage their time, particularly during examinations. The resource can be located using the following link:

https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/fsu/content/1_StudySkills/study_pdf/timemanagement.pdf

M. Kelly and the Wellbeing Wisdom Team

**Year 11 Photography Class**
Mrs Girdlestone would like to congratulate the following students in her Year 11 Photography class for their good behaviour and enthusiasm on the CBD excursion. Abubakarr, Corey, Jordan, Nicole, Vicky, James, Sean, Haele, Alexander, Jasmin, Gabriel, Lauren, Panos, Andie, Claire, Rebecca and Ebony.

R Girdlestone

**Payments for Online Mathematics Software**

**Years 7-10**

REMINDER FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 7-10: Please pay $20 at the office for the online mathematics software before the end of term.

N Vickery, Head Teacher Maths

**Zombie Zone**—Tuesday 15/4/14
7.00-8.30pm—Sutherland Library

Zombies converge on Sutherland Library for activities including special effects make-up, a human target range, zombie cupcake decorating, zombie trivia, zombie walking and more. All activities are FREE, with food and music on the night. Come in your best undead costume!! This is an event for high school students. Book now to secure your spot or just turn up on the night! Phone 9710 0351

**Senior Seminar Program Schedule—3rd April, 2014**

**Year 11**

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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<td>English Advanced, ESL, Maths Ext 1, Soc. &amp; Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Food Technology, Maths General, Society &amp; Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Community &amp; Family Studies, Dance, Society &amp; Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Geography Field Trip, PDHPE Hike</td>
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