Principal’s Message

We are exploring opportunities for supporting parents whose English literacy is poor to the extent that their capacity to support their children’s learning is compromised. We have trained, volunteer ESL mentors who are offering to deliver an ESL Functional Literacy Program at school to interested parents. It could operate as a parent coffee shop and if transport/childcare is a barrier we need to be alerted in order to plan for them. I am hoping that those who can comfortably read this message will share it with anyone who may find it difficult to read in that this is exactly what we are trying to reach. People can contact myself, Mrs Sayed-Rich or leave contact details at the front office on 9543 7000 or on the school email menai-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au We are planning to do this in the belief that anything that is good for students and families needing support makes learning better for everyone in every classroom.

A wonderful group of students and staff made a huge success of the Modern History excursion to Vietnam and Cambodia during the last school vacation. The learning was amazing, deep and rich. The primary organisers were Ms Scevity for History and Ms Piggin-May for Society and Culture. The work done by these two teachers was monumental and they never once complained. Their primary support team included Ms Bessell and Mr Wakely. The students themselves honoured themselves, as well as their families, school and Australian youth. We congratulate and thank Louisa Humphrey, Meagan Faulder, Erin Rolander (Year 12), Caitlin Angus, Scarlett Wynn, Lauren Thomas, Keeley Hickey, Ashley Behari, Loreena Wells, Sara Belani, Jaclyn Cain, Ben Murarotto, Joseph Wong and Jackson Downer (Year 11) for making this an enriched learning opportunity which will never be forgotten. Excursions like this see bonds of friendship consolidated creating the foundations of life long friendships.

We have enjoyed two great sporting events in the last week. The Cross Country included everyone and everyone became a champion for a perfect Athletics Carnival. The Athletics age champions were -

12 years - Travis Thorpe, Emily Fraser
13 years - Jack Karssenemeyer, Riahn Griffiths
14 years - Jesse Paice, Vitoria Camporeale
15 years - Luke Saunders, Nicole Besz
16 years - James, Mihaere, Laura Croan
17 years - Nicholas Iles, Samantha Turpin
18 years - Pierce Coles-Sinclair, Jasmin Grey

Cross Country House Champions were Bradman with 144 points, Freemans 135, Lewis 82 and Hewitt 54. Last Tuesday was a perfect day for a perfect Athletics Carnival. The Athletics age champions were -

12 years - Harrison Warhurst, Hayley Graham
13 years - James Brown, Mia Enright-Bullock
14 years - Adam Ogden, Rachelle Cain
15 years - Blake McWhirter, Nicole Besz
16 years - James Mihaere, Makayla Vandenberg
17 years - Nicholas Iles, Jasmin Grey

The Athletics House Champions were Freeman 1086 points, Bradman 1058, Lewis 946 and Hewitt 943. This championship ladder was strongly influenced by high participation rates as well as some outstanding performers and performances. Several Athletics Records were broken including:

- Blake McWhirter—Discus 40.64m; 100m 11.60sec
- Adam Engeler—High Jump 1.77m
- Maddison Boyling—High Jump 1.60m
- Jesse Paice—800m 2.19:13
- Lewis House—14 years boys Relay 53.25sec
- Bradman House—16 years girls Relay 56.08sec

Congratulations go to the organiser Mr Newman ably supported by the by Relieving Head Teacher Mr Robinson and Sports Organiser Mr Phase as well as the entire staff team. It was a great day and a great event.

The safety pool of laptops to support students experiencing financial difficulties has finally arrived. These are accessed on a period basis through the library using the normal library borrowing processes. They are not for students who forget their own devices as this is a separate discipline issue. The same way that failure to bring equipment is a discipline issue.

Menai High School is currently participating in the development of a national disability data collection program. This is the first time that a national consensus on what constitutes a disability has been attempted. It is a major task aligning all the states and their traditions and protocols for supporting learning in order to generate equity for opportunity for all children. This is a big challenge and I am delighted to be taking part. Mrs Cooper and the Learning Support team will be the active agents and leaders in this task and I thank them in anticipation of the good they will do.

We have had a few issues of students who claim to be the victims of bullying but have never reported any concerns or problems to anyone. It is not bullying if someone fails to report problems or concerns. No one can intervene or deal with a concern if it is not reported so please support your children by assuring them that it is not “dobbing” to report a problem that needs to be solved or dealt with.

E McNALLY

Deputy Principal’s Message

Personal Learning Plans

As this is my first newsletter for Term 2 I would like to welcome our families and also welcome all our new families to Menai High School. This school will provide your child with many opportunities in curriculum and extra-curricular activities. I am always impressed with our current students who are great ambassadors for our school. Nearly every parent of new students this term speaks of their child’s friends who attend Menai High and how impressed they are when the student relays the pride they have in their school. Parents indicate that this is a major reason why they make an enquiry about enrolling.

Personal Learning Plans, were handed out last Friday for Year 7 and 8 students. Ask your child for the plan and work through it with your child. If required, changes can be made to the plan after your discussion with your child. For some students corrections will need to be made in punctuation, spelling and grammar. On the back of your child’s PLP is an example of a good PLP. Use this as a guide to work with your child. I would like to thank Mr Meagher for all the time dedicated to this program. Each student in the school will have a second meeting with their PLP teacher in Week 7 this term. This will provide your child a time to reflect on their progress.

Year 11 and the junior years are approaching exams. Timetables have been distributed to students so ask your child for a copy and place it on the fridge. All students should now take the opportunity to follow their study timetable. A copy of a study timetable is in your child’s diary.

R Allen

Important Dates & Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 12/5</td>
<td>School Council Meeting 6pm; P&amp;C Meeting 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13/5</td>
<td>NAPLAN Tests— all week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 19/5</td>
<td>Year 7 Morning Teas (all week); Year 11 Exams begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 26/5</td>
<td>Staff Development Day—student free</td>
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**Good News**

**Well done to Sarah Wilson from Year 9 for her extremely dedicated and hardworking attitude during senior ensemble rehearsals. She remained focused and displayed a great team spirit.**

Mr Proctor would like to acknowledge the Year 11 Geography class for their excellent desert plant and animal performances and well done to Jordan Momircevski in Year 8 for his vast knowledge of energy sources.

Mr Blaylock would like to congratulate the following students from her classes for their great work. In the Year 12 Society and Culture class, well done to Louise Humphrey for receiving full marks in the half yearly examination, Iesha McRae for her excellent result in the Society and Culture half yearly examination and Samuel Lasu for excellent progress in his Personal Interest Project.

Commandment to Miss Blaylock’s Year 10 SAM class for their enthusiasm in creating their conspiracy theory posters. To Allen Mackie, Claudia Kabic, Katherine Hensler, Thomas Gao, Tanya Ojala, Harrison Nowocznyski and Kaili Burgess in Year 9 for excellent history speeches and well done to Jaimie Bleakley-Fish in Year 10 for a huge improvement in her overall dedication and attitude to her studies.

**Interrelate Services**

Interrelate provides services that strengthen and support all of the relationships in your life. We can help you understand how to improve your relationships with your partner, your children and family.

Our services are also designed to help parents and children through separation, divorce, becoming stepfamilies and when dealing with grief and loss. Our most popular services are shown below. If you would like to find out more or discuss how we can help you please contact Interrelate Sutherland.

**Family Relationship Centre**

Interrelate operates an Australian Government funded Family Relationship Centre. The Family Relationship Centre (FRC) in Sutherland is a source of information and confidential assistance for families. The FRC can help people who are going through separation, starting a relationship, wanting to make the relationships in their lives stronger and those who are having relationship difficulties. Where families have separated, the FRC provides information, advice, group sessions and dispute resolution to help people reach agreement on parenting arrangements without going to court.

**Counselling**

Counselling offers opportunities for individuals, couples and families to explore and change aspects of their lives and relationships that aren’t working. Relationship difficulties are normal and talking to a professional counsellor about the issues can help improve a challenging situation. Interrelate provides counselling that will help identify the needs and concerns of everyone involved and work towards solutions and outcomes that everyone can live with.

**Children’s Contact Service**

The Children’s Contact Service (CCS) in Caringbah provides a safe and relaxed family atmosphere where children from separated families can connect with both parents.

It is a place designed for adults and children to play together, read stories or just sit and talk in a pleasant home-like environment. The goal of the CCS is to help parents manage their children’s contact arrangements by themselves and provides a safe place for family members to interact when other arrangements aren’t working. Where there is high conflict, separated parents can use the CCS to hand their children over to each other without having to come face-to-face with or speak to the other parent. The CCS can also be used by parents who want to enjoy time with their children but have been ordered to do so only under supervision.

**Our programs**

Interrelate Sutherland also runs a range of programs to help with specific situations. Please contact us to find out when the next program is running and any costs involved.

**Dads Connecting**

A 4 session program that helps fathers increase their use of affection, encouragement and responsiveness to a child’s cues. For children aged 2-6 years. Please note that consent from both parents is needed for this program.

**Making Stepfamilies Work**

A 6 session course that helps couples understand and improve the relationships established as a result of becoming a stepfamily.

**Parents Not Partners**

A 6 session program for separated parents in conflict over the children – where they should live, how much time with each parent, what school they should attend, or anything else concerning the children.

**More information**

For more information on any of our services please contact Interrelate Sutherland on (02) 8522 4450 or visit us at Shop 1C, 383-385 Port Hacking Road in Caringbah.

Y Mazoudier, Head Teacher, Welfare

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**Wellbeing Wisdom**

**Study Environment**

It is important that your child has a place in your home that is conducive to study to maximise learning. It should be a place that is organised and free of distractions and clutter; always available to them, have adequate furniture and lighting, storage for their books and notes and have a comfortable temperature. There is an excellent power point presentation at http://www.studyvibe.com.au/iStudy/Getting-in-the-zone.aspx that goes into further detail of how your child’s study environment can be improved to achieve success.

L Ferraro and the Welfare Wisdom Team

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**NAPLAN Exams**

All Year 7 and Year 9 students will sit for their NAPLAN exams on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week. Language and Writing Tests will be on Tuesday, Reading Tests will be on Wednesday, and the Numeracy Tests will be on Thursday. All students must bring their own calculator on Thursday for the Numeracy Test.

If a student is absent on one of the days, they will need to sit that exam on Friday.

M Robinson, NAPLAN Coordinator

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**Menai High School**

**Second Hand Uniform Shop**

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will operate on Tuesdays from 2.30-3.00pm.

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**Public Dental Service**

**FREE Dental Care for Children**

All Children under 18 years old are eligible for FREE DENTAL CARE at NSW Public Oral Health Clinics. NSW Health recommends that all children have a dental check-up. Toothache can cause children to miss school. Pain can stop children playing, eating and sleeping. To make an appointment, contact: your family dentist or phone the Public Dental Service on 9293 3333.

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**Senior Seminar Program Schedule - 25th May 2014**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Year 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 2 Business Studies, English (Advanced), ESL, Maths (Ext 1)</td>
<td>Period 2 Business Studies, English (Advanced), ESL, Maths (Ext 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 3 Business Studies, English (Standard), Maths General, Music, Physics</td>
<td>Period 3 Business Studies, English (Standard), Maths General, Music, Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 4 Business Studies, Dance</td>
<td>Period 4 Business Studies, Dance</td>
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</tbody>
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**Endeavour presents Accio Books! - the Harry Potter Alliance's Annual Book Drive**

Providing literature to remote and rural indigenous communities with low standards of education and with limited access to reading material.

Donate your second hand women’s, men’s, teenage fiction; non-fiction, including dictionaries, biographies and textbooks; picture books and children’s fiction. MUST STILL BE IN GOOD CONDITION.

Email — landiss.deluminators@gmail.com to organise collection or drop-off.