**Principal’s Message**

It has been an exciting week for our Dance teachers, Mrs Millington and Miss Osborne, who led an outstanding HSC Dance class to undertake the HSC Performance Examination. In addition, talented Stage 4 and Stage 5 performed in student choreography. Miss Almond accompanied this dynamic and talented team of students to the two-day external examination. Miss Almond highly commended the behaviour, positive attitude and genuine enthusiasm which these students demonstrated, and the C.A.P.A team would like to recognise the efforts of these students and teachers: Monique Constantine, Lauren Constantine, Sarah Clark, Tram Huong Dinh, Shyleigh Larer, Louisa Polson, Ashley Power, Maggie Moran, Katerina Papadakis, Melanie Lewis, Samantha Turpin, Natasha Tsafis and Christina Tsafis.

Some of our dancers, singers and musicians have been working hard for their roles in the 2014 Schools Spectacular. The year’s show “This is Australia” pays tribute to the diversity that Australia offers, not only in its landscape but through the people and the history. Tickets are on sale for the 2014 Schools Spectacular—This is Australia. The Schools Spectacular is a brilliantly choreographed and costumed production featuring over 3500 singers, dancers and musicians representing more than 400 NSW public schools from across the state.

For the ninth year the DEC is delighted to welcome Telstra as its Principal Sponsor. Telstra technology will enable schools to access choreographic elements of the show, assisting with their preparations via the Internet and also linking selected remote schools to live rehearsals. Please note the introduction of a new tiered ticketing structure—Platinum, Gold and Silver—to provide a range of pricing options for individuals and families. An exclusive priority booking period for schools will extend from Monday 11 August to Friday 22 August, 2014. Schools booking and paying with a school or bank cheque will avoid a credit card payment processing fee of 1.95%. For further ticket information please visit www.schoolsspectacular.com.au or email details@schoolsspectacular.com.au.

School communities are our best promoters of the Schools Spectacular. I value and appreciate your support of our performing arts programs. I look forward to seeing you at the 2014 Schools Spectacular—this is Australia.

There has been universal praise for Year 11 participating in a road safety program “You-turn-the-Wheel” last week. Police statistics show that this fantastic inter-agency day has had a major impact on youth road safety in the Sutherland Shire over past years. Our youth accident and death rates are 30% lower than other similar areas and I believe this program contributes to our young peoples developing awareness of vehicle safety issues. Congratulations Year 11, every presenter reported your group as the best, most cooperative and attentive school year. Well done.

I have been delighted by the amazing Industrial Technology Timber major works for the HSC. Liam Cooper’s chess set is a “sight to behold” and his folio is described as one of “the best ever”. Jessica McDonald’s dressing table is also incredibly fine work as is Matthew Trantas’ maritime stand. If I were to plan a theft it would be for Hayden Smith’s slab bed. The rustic raw tree has been pieced together to perfection. Others have achieved beautiful curves which are very hard to perfect. Well done Antonio Barbuto, Joshua Brett, Liam Cooper, Connor Davaram, Nathan Ippolito, Kirsten Kane, Daniel Kenny, Giorgio Persenitis, Tylah Pritchard and Peter Vlahos.

Industrial Technology Auto major works do not present the same level of visual beauty, however they are also outstanding works worthy of recognition and marker recognition. Well done Bright Achirem, Mohammad Al Kafagi, Domba Davidson Allieu, Junior Bangura, Frederick Bundu, Thomas Dingley, Sohid Md Atai, Jake Mills, Zakir Parwarish and Gabrielle Paterson.

All staff including myself have recently completed a rigorous assessment process led by their line manager. These processes affirm that we are all operating at an effective level consistent with the criteria established by the Australian Institute of Teachers. It is always an enriching experience when we share and account for our professional practice. It also assures students and parents that teaching and learning is well managed in our school.

The uniform shop is now selling an ultra-light spray jacket for under $20. It packs into its own tiny pocket and takes up no bag space/weight. I believe every student should have one of these in their bag at all times. We are heading into the big spring season rain with unpredictable downpours that catch people by surprise. Please consider purchasing one ASAP.

School Chaplains are not going to be funded by the Federal Government from 2015. We have enjoyed great service and support from our Chaplain Elizabeth Ramsay over the past seven years. It would be a great loss to our students if we were to lose her services next year. As a secular public school it would be improper to use school funds to resource the continuation of this position. If people would like to donate funds or sponsor the continuation of this position donations and sponsorships would be most welcome. Please contact myself, or go to Mychaplin.com to make tax deductible contributions to retain these services.

Please note that some very attractive scholarship offers are available for the children and grandchildren of war veterans at aucat@dva.gov.au or www.au cat.org.au

Applications for 2014-15 admissions will open in early August. Most of UAC’s participating institutions have Educational Access Schemes (EAS) to help students who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage gain admission to tertiary study. Institutions use EAS to make offers of admission in one of two ways. They:

- Allocate bonus points, or
- Set aside a certain number of places for EAS applicants

There are seven broad categories of disadvantage:

- Disrupted schooling
- English language difficulty
- Home environment
- Personal illness/disability
- Refugee status
- School environment

To be eligible for EAS consideration your educational performance must have been seriously affected, normally for a period of at least six months during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent, due to circumstances beyond your control and choosing.

E McNALLY

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**IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS**

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<tr>
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<td>Monday 18/8</td>
<td>Year 7 MENA Swim School (3 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19/8</td>
<td>HSC Drama Practical Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25/8</td>
<td>Year 7 IGHS Swim School (4 days)</td>
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<td>National Literacy &amp; Numeracy Week,</td>
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<td>School Play (3 days)</td>
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<td>Friday 29/8</td>
<td>Formal Assembly</td>
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Deputy Principal’s Message

Year 10 Pattern of Study Interviews
On Friday 5th September Year 10 students will be interviewed concerning their pattern of study for Year 11. Students will be asked which pattern of study they wish to study. Choices students need to make are either ATAR, HSC pattern or a RoSA pattern of study.

The learning support staff will also be interviewing students in Week 6 to discuss subject choices. Students are also able to change their subject at this meeting but only if there is space in the course.

Year 11
Students have been asked to place an expression of interest concerning the course they may wish to drop or extension units they want to pick up next year for the HSC. This information at present is being used to help plan the timetable for next year. No student will be dropping below 12 units this year. Students currently on 14 or 13 units who wish to drop to 12 units and students who wish to pick up an extension unit will meet with me in Weeks 9 and 10 of this term.

NSW BOSTES N Warnings
A reminder to Year 10 and 11 students that all work indicated on N warning letters must be redeemed. I have been interviewing students recently who are of concern. Students not completing work could be given an N grade (non-completion) on their RoSA, or may not be able to progress to the next stage or year.

Lateness
A few students have already used all their allocated lates for this term and are now on late alert. Each time students who are on late alert are late they will be required to do a detention. If the lateness continues an interview with parents and after school detention will occur.

Uniform
A reminder that compliant shoes must be worn to school every day. If students do not have compliant sport shoes for Period 1 to 4 on Thursdays students can come to school in full school uniform and change for sport at lunchtime. Parents will be contacted when students are presented to the Deputies concerning shoes, and parents will be asked to bring the compliant shoes to school.

Early Leave
A reminder if a student requires an early leave on Thursdays the late note must be provided on Wednesday. All late notes need to be presented to the Deputies before school.

R ALLEN

Welfare News!

Another great week of student achievement.

Good News
Congratulations to the Open Girls Softball team who were placed 10th at the NSW CHS State Championships. Also Ben Jorgenson was selected in the Sydney East AFL team.

Ms Wearring would like to congratulate Rachael Lee, Ethan Macky, Megan Shipp, Caitlin Tullis, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, Laura Croan, Maddison Jones, Maya Klic, Millie Richards, Cameron Burgess, Elizabeth Faust, Reece Holmewood, Vicki Milekovic, Jake Pinnock, Alison Willetts, Aisha Aidara, Chelsea Burgess, Mikaela Luckman, Madeleine Norris and Lachlan Robertson in 10H1 and Emily Cheung, Kristi-Lyn Piccolo and Duncan Irvine for wonderful Migration Speeches.

Well done to Tyron Knipp and Lauren Lamotta from Miss Kavouras for consistently performing well in class tasks and assignments and to her entire 8I class for completing and excellent unit of work.

Ms Summerfield, Miss De Mello and Mrs Monir would like to acknowledge the following students from their classes for their outstanding Business Reports, Kareem Allam, Jemma Bosilkovski, Jordan Gow, Ashleigh Sarcasmo, Ashley Behari, Scarlett Wynn and Marissa Kotsaris.

Congratulations to Joseph Messiter, Kayla Nyberg, Lily Van Steinburg, Jordan Macbeth and Duncan Irvine from Ms Mason for improvement in your essay writing.

Mrs Waugh would like to congratulate Mohamad Al Eid, Ali Aljwad, Bilal Atieh Mostafa, Guan Di, Michael Du, Mohamad Hamed, Junhui He, Guesh Jantui, Stanley Ji, Jo Le, Rei Lo, Kim Mercado, Kasrey Nguyen, Karl Ortiguer, Aiqi Peramanaputra and Themis Tsigkaris for great digital presentations.

Well done to Miss Mundy to Sophie Winfield and Caitlin Auciello for improvement in your essay writing.

Year 11 Captains Speeches
During the school assembly on Friday, the Year 11 Leadership team presented speeches to the school in their bid to introduce themselves and be elected as School Captains for 2015. All candidates did a fantastic job and I wish them all the best as they nervously await the results of the voting.

Y Mazoudier, Head Teacher Welfare

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<tr>
<th>Senior Seminar Program Schedule — 21st August, 2014</th>
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<td><strong>Year 11</strong></td>
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| Period 10 |  |
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Wellbeing Wisdom

Attendance

According to a recent study that was presented at the Australian Council for Educational Research Conference, a direct link has been established between poor school attendance and low NAPLAN results. Even missing one day of school can have a detrimental effect on a child's academic performance. The DEC deems that students should attend school at a rate of 85% at a minimum. The average rate of attendance in NSW public schools was 92.6% in 2013 which equates to about 14 days off a year. However, some students, particularly high school students, fall short of this percentage in Australia. Acceptable grounds for leave include compassionate reasons, health complications or the commitments of elite athletes, however recently there has been a trend in families taking vacations during school time. Overseas trips certainly have their place in the learning process and can enrich young people in ways that cannot be achieved in the classroom, however the impact that extended leave has on students' academic performance and stress levels should be given careful consideration.

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/attendance.php

L Ferraro and the Wellbeing Wisdom Team

Creative & Performing Arts News

During Term 3, Mrs Colliss led Year 9 Visual Arts to create innovative and technically sophisticated portraits for print. Students investigated a range of diverse printmaking methods including dry-point etching, silk-screen printing and lino printing. All students in the class have achieved excellent results in their art making. Two students, Shania Kalan and Rachel Ho, demonstrated outstanding technical skills when using silk-screen and lino processes. You can view these works as well as other exceptional student work at the Annual Art Exhibition, to be held on 9th October, 2014.

M Kelly, Relieving Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts

Menai High School

HSC MAJOR WORKS EXHIBITION

Design and Technology/ Industrial Technology Timber/ Visual Arts

Thursday Night 21/8
School Hall
6pm – 8pm

Menai High School

presents

Devious

Thursday 28th August
School Hall 7pm

Tickets

Students/ concessions $5;
Adults $8
Family tickets (2 adults/ 2 students) $20

Public Dental Service

Who can get Free Dental Care?

All Children under 18 years old
Adults who hold a Centrelink concession card

Anyone listed on your card is also eligible for free public dental care
All patients must be eligible for Medicare

How do I access the dental service?

Phone the Public Dental Service during the day.

1300 134 226

If you do not speak English very well and need an interpreter, call the national Telephone Interpreting Service On:

131 450

NSW Transport

Please note that students who have changed their address or changed their station need to hand back their old rail pass. If you have lost your pass or your pass has been stolen or destroyed, it will cost $20 to receive a new one.

School Rail Passes Section