Relieving Principal’s Message

I need to start my report this week by thanking all the staff who have worked very hard to provide the rest of the school with a smooth and controlled start of the school year. All classes are up and running and everything is under control for emerging programs and challenges. Each student received their student planner on the first day of school last week. Student planners (diaries) and their companion e-diaries are central to student success. Contemporary learning presents a complex time management challenge for students, parents and teachers. E-diaries allow us all to play our part in the learning triangle that nurtures success.

Parents need to return their acceptance of the school’s code of conduct, and personal technology device charter. Year 7 parents will also need to return the parent portal information sheet mobile device charter and a range of other approvals by the 16th February so that your child can access the school’s technology and be able to bring their mobile device to school. We begin confiscating unauthorized mobile devices after this date.

I have met some outstanding sporting students this week who have achieved selection in Sydney East Regional teams. Steve Milliken and Lachlan Willmore have been selected in the Open Boys Sydney East Cricket team who will compete in the NSWCSHA Championships in Armidale. The girls are also shining with Siobhan Holstead being selected in the girls Sydney East Cricket team competing at Armidale. Good luck.

Curtis Horbury featured in the local Bankstown paper “The Torch” last week for his outstanding selection in the national speed skiing squad. He will be representing Australia at the World Championships to be held in New Zealand in April.

On Thursday a large group of Year 12 students attended the University of Wollongong’s Discovery Day. The students have started to research the next stage of their education and participated in workshops and lectures. Congratulations Andrew Agius, Kristen Agius, Kareem Allam, Caitlin Angulo, Stephanie Batsos, Sarah Behari, Samantha Bermingham, Jemma Bosilkovski, Jessica Braden, Caitlin Brown, Justin Brown, Greta Cassady, Jenny Chen, Jayden Collins, Mark Cook, Gabrielle Corteis, Harry Coss, Taylah Croyer, Jordan Davis, Ebony Jayne Dobeson, Jordan Dunn, Nicole Enrriquez, Katrina Fahd, Tiffany Fung, Elizabeth Golikova, Sian Griffiths, Jordan Harper, Keeley Haynes, Tristan Hood, Erin Isaacs, Gareth Jenkin, Brooke Jerrett, Rebecca Johnston, Kai Johnstone, Jasna Kalic, Ryan Karssemeyer, Nour Kassir, Marissa Kotsaris, Niki Laprompoulos, Angus Law, Martin Li, Jayden Locaputo-Panagis, Joshua Mayers, Holly McCaw, Corey Molloy, Monica Monir, Ben Murarotto, Alicia Naidu, Jacqueline Nguyen, Tim Ollitruaft, Deeyara Pillay, Lewis Poytress, Naomi Rahman, Jon Ryan, Monique Ryan, riaz Sadruddin, Ashleigh Sarska, Keira Smith, Adrian Stefano, Nathan Tang, Lauren Thomas, Jack Thorne, James Toogood, Jessica Towell, Samantha Turpin, Rachel Waterworth, Loreena Wells, Andie Wendt, Emily Williams, Joseph Wong, Scarlett Wynn, Rebecca Xirocostas and Anthony Yeung for putting in the extra effort and clearly targeting winning goals.

In 2014 Sutherland Shire public schools achieved great HSC results - 653 of our students were Distinguished Achievers (Band 6/6)4 this is a large increase from 2013. 11 students gained places in the Top All Rounders List Our students were highly ranked in the state in: French Beginner-3rd, PDHPE -3rd & 20th, Software Design and Development-3rd, Food Technology-4th, Design Technology-5th, Industrial Technology-Timer-6th, Society & Culture-8th, Mathematics General 2-10th. Standard English-13th and represented in Art Express-2, Art Rules-7 (Hazelhurst), InTECH-1, Design Tech-4, Callback-10, Encore-1 and OnSTAGE-4. Open Night, on 4th March, will showcase our great public school.

Our HSC results were outstanding with Alexandra Boyling becoming our 2014 Dux with anATAR of 99. Most subject groups performed above the state average including Ancient History, Business Studies, Community and Family Studies, Dance, English Standard, Advanced and ESL English, Geography, IPT, History Extension, Music, PDHPE, Studies of Religion, Visual Arts, Japanese Beginners, Japanese Continuers, VET Construction, Entertainment, Hospitality, IT and Primary Industries. A huge number of students gained the maximum Band 6 in one or more subjects and were included on the Board of Studies Top Achievers—Monique Sutevski who came 5th in the state in Design and Technology and Ciana Todorovski came 15th in the state for English Standard. Distinguished Achievers list including: Raneem Alyqsy-Society and Culture, Alexandra Boyling-Ancient History, Biology, Chemistry, English (Advanced) and Mathematics, Jeremy Lee Chau-English (Advanced), Alyssa Clark-Mathematics General 2, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Visual Arts, Monique Constantine-Dance, Liam Cooper-Design and Technology and Industrial Technology, Thomas Dingley-Industrial Technology, Tam Huong Dinh-English (Advanced), Mark Faulks-English (Standard), Jasmin Grey-English (Advanced), English Extension 1, Mathematics General 2 and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Rania Kassir-Legal Studies, Daniel Lui-English (Advanced), Jessica McDonald-Industrial Technology, Keya McGregor-Drama, Jade McGlynn-English (Advanced) and English Extension 1, Isha McRae-Business Studies, Drama, English (Advanced) and Society and Culture, Jacob Newton-English (Advanced) and Mathematics, Ashley Power-Dance, Lia Ramsay-Ancient History, Biology, English (Advanced) and English Extension 1, Kaylee Rankin-Ancient History, Design and Technology (Advanced), English Extension 1 and Visual Arts, Taylor Rechich-English (Advanced), Brooke Santos-English (Advanced), Ben Saunders-Mathematics General 2, Hayden Smith-Industrial Technology, Monique Sutevski-Business Studies, Design and Technology, English (Advanced), English Extension 1 and Legal Studies, Katherine Tannous-English (Advanced), Ciana Todorovski-Ancient History and English (Standard), Natasha Tsafis-Dance, English (Advanced), Mathematics General 2 and Music 1, Alex Tweed-Mathematics General 2, Kyra Webb-English (Advanced), Jacob Wilkes-Music 1 and Sarah Willetts-Community and Family Studies and English (Advanced). We are all very proud of these outstanding results.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Abu Turay, Year 12, on meeting former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser as part of his Society and Culture research for his personal interest project. I have attached a recent article from the St George Sutherland Leader for all to read as it is a truly inspiring story which highlights what this amazing young man has achieved.

R Allen
Welcome back to all Menai High School families and to what has been a fantastic start to the school year. Menai High School is an outstanding school with outstanding staff who deliver quality education to your child. Congratulations to last year’s Year 12 students on their outstanding HSC results. Our top ATAR results were- Ally Boyling 99, Kaylee Rankin 97, and Monique Sutervski 96.9. Additionally, over 100 university places were accepted by our Year 12 students and many more students have gained apprenticeships, traineeships and full time work. I wish every Year 12 student a healthy, happy and successful journey ahead.

I welcome our new Year 7 students to Menai High School who commenced the year in an excellent manner and have handled the transition very well so far. Thanks to Year Advisers Mrs C. Basford and Mr L Colella for their great work leading and supporting Year 7. I look forward to getting to know the new families of our students as the year progresses.

All students have been issued a copy of the 2015 Student and Welfare Discipline Policy and Parent Acknowledgement and Personal Technology Device (PTD) Charter, at the first whole school assembly. These are important documents that must be completed and returned by the 16th February, 2015 by your child to their roll call teacher. All of these documents are available on the Menai High School web site under our School tab, then go to Rules & Policies and then go to Welfare & Discipline Policy. The school website provides a wealth of information about all facets of the school and I encourage parents to visit the website regularly for information on upcoming events and news.

Menai High School students have returned to school looking great in full school uniform. It is an expectation that all students are wearing the correct uniform each day and complying with safety regulations for school uniforms. The uniform shop is open on Tuesdays from 8-12pm and Fridays from 12.30 to 4.30pm. School uniform allows the staff to easily identify students and continues to set a high expectations and a strong culture for learning at the school. Please be aware that on sport days, it is a requirement that student wear non-porous shoes Periods 1-4 and change into sports shoes for sport lessons. Alternatively, students may wear white leather non-porous sports shoes on sport day or they may wear full school uniform and then change into full sports uniform for sport time only.

The Personalised Learning Plans (PLP) program will continue across the school this year and we will build upon last year’s successful launch. The PLP's allow each child time to plan and set academic goals and to review these regularly with teacher and parent support.

Organisation remains a key factor to student success. As such, students now have their student planners and access to the E-Diary within Glow for parents/caregivers, upon registration, great access to be able to monitor their child’s learning at home. I have often relayed to students that good habits need practise and a little every day goes a long way.

I encourage any student to utilize the school homework centre which commences operations next Tuesday after school from 3-5pm. The homework centre is available to any student and provides support from teachers with assessment work for any subject or in literacy and numeracy.

Term One is always a busy term and preparations are already underway for the Year 7 Orientation Dinner on the 27th February, 2015 and the Menai High School Open Night on 4th March, 2014. We are asking for donations of non-perishable gifts that you may have left over from the festive season to raffle at the Year 7 Dinner. Please send these to the front office. Your donations are very much appreciated.

Both evenings will be wonderful opportunities to meet with our new families and to welcome students for the 2015 school year into the Menai High School educational community and by showcasing the impressive opportunities at the school. The Menai High School Open Night is a huge event attracting large numbers on the night so please allow extra time in transit to the school.

The Welfare team have done an incredible job supporting each student in the year and I would like to thank Ms Mazoudier, Head Teacher Welfare for her leadership of the team. At Menai High School, the welfare of every child is paramount to their success in learning. We have an incredible team of dedicated year advisers, counsellor, school chaplain and SRE teachers who have your child’s well-being at the forefront as do the world class teachers, SLSEO’s and SASS staff here at Menai High School.

The school swimming carnival is on the Wednesday 11th of February, 2015. This is an exciting whole school event and all students are expected to attend and participate in the day’s program. Thank you to Mr K Newman and PDHPE faculty for their organisation of this event.

Finally, road safety travelling to and from school is extremely important and I encourage parents to remind their child about the importance of safe conduct when traveling to and from school, in particular when crossing at the traffic lights outside the school and when waiting for buses along Old Illawarra Road.

The first School Council, Parents and Citizens and Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday the 9th February, 2015 from 6pm (School Council) and 7pm P&C. We have a special presentation arranged by Head Space Miranda that is focussed on strategies for Parents/Caregivers to use to support their children in the lead up to and during exam periods.

I am looking forward to working with your child over the course of the year and wish every child success in their education at Menai High School this year.

E Sayed-Rich

**Welfare News!**

**Good News**

A big thank you to Imogen Boughey, Katy Armonson-Graham, Emily Cheung, Lavinia Meyer and Tara Arduin from Ms Hardy for helping Ms Bourke transport the school sheep during the school holidays.

**Year 7**

The Big Fish Little Fish program will be running next week for all Year 7. This program is designed to help students in their transition to high school. Payment for this is to be made at the front office. Please speak to Mrs Basford or Mr Colella if you have any enquiries.

Camp is coming up. The Year 7 camp is a fantastic way for Year 7 students to meet other people from their cohort outside of the classroom. We are hoping that all Year 7 will attend this so that they can build a wide network of friends and build a strong relationship with their Year Advisors Mrs Basford and Mr Colella. If you would like to know more or have any enquiries about the camp, please contact the Year 7 Advisors.

**Vaccinations**

Year 7 were issued with their consent forms for vaccinations this week. Parents are encouraged to read all the information and fill in the forms, especially signature, Medicare number and tick the boxes of the vaccinations you would like your child to receive. Year 7 are offered the HPV vaccine, Diptheria Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination and Chicken Pox vaccination. These are spread out throughout the year.

Students are asked to return consent forms to their roll call teachers by Friday 13th February.

Year 11 and 12 students have also been given the opportunity to have a booster measles, mumps, rubella vaccination this year. While students were asked to hand their forms in by Wednesday 4th February, they can still hand them in. Any late consent forms will be given to the nurses on their first visit and students will receive the vaccination when the nurses return later in the year.

Any student in Year 7, 11 or 12 who has not received a vaccination package should see me (Ms Mazoudier) in the welfare office.

The first round of vaccinations will occur on Monday 9th March.

Y Mazoudier
Head Teacher, Welfare

**Menai High School Second Hand Uniform Shop**

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will operate on Tuesdays from 8.30-9.00am
The following are the amended dates.

Carnival dates from previous newsletter were incorrect. Students, parents and staff will be entertained by students from our Performing Arts department and students will speak about their experiences at Menai High.

This is a great opportunity to meet teachers and the families of other students in Year Seven. We hope this event will once again provide valuable motivation for our 2015 Year 7 families.

E Sayed-Rich, Deputy Principal

Sports News

Please Note Amended Carnival Dates

Carnival dates from previous newsletter were incorrect. The following are the amended dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>11/2/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>2/3/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>18/3/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>26/3/15-28/3/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>School X-Country</td>
<td>24/4/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Athletics</td>
<td>28/4/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone X-Country</td>
<td>18/5/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional X-Country</td>
<td>11/6/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone Athletics</td>
<td>12/6/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>State X-Country</td>
<td>17/7/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Athletics</td>
<td>30/7/15-31/7/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Athletics</td>
<td>3-5/9/15</td>
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K Newman, Sports Organiser

2015 Swimming Carnival

The School Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 11th February at Revesby Pool. Students who wish to catch the bus must be out the front of the school by 8.30am. Students are to pay $10 as they board the bus. This will pay for their transport and pool entry. Students making their own way to the pool must pay $5 as they enter.

Please encourage your child to wear a hat, protective clothing, sunscreen and to drink plenty of water. Students do not wear their school uniform on the day, but are encouraged to wear clothing that is the same colour as their Sport House. All permission notes must be returned to Roll Call Teachers by Tuesday.

K Newman, Sports Organiser

SRE—2015

As we all welcome in the new school year and settle back into routine, holidays seem to be a blur. I hope Year 7 is excited about a new season in their life at Menai High School.

If you have children in Year 7 or 8 you would have received a note via your child in reference to SRE classes in 2015. All students are given the freedom of choice to attend this class. Students who do not want to attend SRE, need to return the ‘OPT OUT’ section of the note, signed by a parent/caregiver, to their roll call teacher ASAP. If the ‘OPT OUT’ note is not returned, your child will automatically attend SRE classes fortnightly on either a Tuesday or Wednesday. Mr Meagher our Head Teacher Administration will put together a timetable of classes. This will be issued to your child during their first SRE class in Week 4 of Term 1.

SRE in 2014 proved to be a popular and worthwhile class for all students. It is engaging, relative and potentially life changing. If you have any questions about this subject please don’t hesitate to call Mrs Bennett on the school number.

AUDACITY, our lunchtime program is ramping up again. Our Youth Pastors and Leaders of the local churches will again be visiting Menai High during Tuesday lunch times with the intention of connecting with our students in a positive way. As a team, we are mission and social justice focused in 2015. We aim to impact our school and local community in a positive way. Our youth can be people who bring change for good! We will be meeting TUESDAY lunchtimes in the common room. All students are welcome to come along and join a movement of people who are ‘Salt and Light’ in our world.

Looking forward to a great 2015 here at Menai High!

Mrs Bennett, SRE Teacher

eDiary

As many of you will be aware, we have refined our eDiary for 2015 and it is fully implemented for Years 8-12. Year 7 will be signed up and trained throughout Week 3.

If you have not yet registered, please email us at the school on menai-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au with the following information:

Email, First Name, Last Name, Child’s Name, Child’s Year Group

You will be sent an invitation; just follow the prompts to join! Please contact Mr Chiswell on the school email if your eDiary is not working properly or you have registered but have not received your email invitation. Also feel free to contact Mrs Hatzi if you have any questions/concerns.

The E-Diary Team

Disability Provisions for the HSC Exams 2015

If your son/daughter has a diagnosed Learning Difficulty or serious medical condition, they may be eligible to apply for Disability Provisions for the Higher School Certificate exams. Applications must be accompanied by medical or specialist reports. Any student who feels they may be eligible must see Mrs Frages in the Library by Friday 13th February, 2015.

N Lewry, Head Teacher Admin

Gifted and Talented Athlete Program

Menai High School will be running the Gifted and Talented Athlete Seminar Program again this year. The aim of the program is to provide the selected students with the opportunity to increase their knowledge in sports related issues, which will assist in their development and future athletic performances. Students who represented the school or Sydney East Region at a NSWCHS State Carnival last year are invited into the program. Students who also compete outside of school at an elite level will also be invited into the program (state or national level with documentation). Throughout the year, students will attend approximately one seminar per term that will run for 50 minutes. Students will also be given a free gym pass which will allow them to train in the school’s fitness centre at lunch time. If your child would like to be part of this program, they must see Mr Robinson for an expression of interest form.

M Robinson, Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE
Refugee meets with ex-PM

By Eva Kollmar

WHEN Abu Turay, 17, asked former prime minister Malcolm Fraser if he would help him with a school project he did not expect what happened next.

The Menai High School year 12 student had fled Sierra Leone with his family to a refugee camp and orphanage in Guinea in 2005.

He was there four years before his uncle and aunt brought him and his brother to Sydney three years ago.

During his English studies at Beverly Hills Intensive Learning Centre, Abu took part in health screenings for the Optimising Health and Learning project—a NSW initiative for which Abu is a youth ambassador.

The project inspired him to investigate how health affects learning development of young refugees and vulnerable migrants.

Abu will explore this topic for a year-long personal interest project for his elective subject, society and culture. Rather than sifting through library books, Abu wrote a letter to Mr Fraser, who agreed to be interviewed by Abu in Melbourne recently.

The trip was funded by Sutherland District Trade Union Club, which supports HSC major projects by refugee students.

Abu said he was interested in politics and social justice.

“I found out that Mr Fraser knew Nelson Mandela, so I asked him about that,” he said.

“When I told my uncle I was visiting Mr Fraser he was very surprised.

“He said if I had asked for such a meeting with a leader in Sierra Leone, I would probably get in big trouble for not knowing my place.”

The aspiring architect is happy to have the chance to gain an education in Australia.

“One of the big differences I notice between Africa and Australia is that in Australia, teachers encourage you to do better,” he said.

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KNOW YOUR PARKING SIGNS

**NO STOPPING**

What does it mean?
You cannot stop in this area FOR ANY REASON.

Why is it there?
To keep sight lines clear for drivers AND children, so both have more time to avoid crashes.

**NO PARKING**

What does it mean?
You can stop in a NO PARKING zone for a maximum of two minutes to drop off or pick up passengers. You must stay within three metres of your car at all times.

Why is it there?
To provide a safe place for older children to be set down and picked up without endangering other children.

**BUS ZONE**

What does it mean?
You must not stop or park in a bus zone unless you are driving a bus.

Why is it there?
To provide a safe place for large buses to set down and pick up.

Cars parking in bus zones put lives at risk by forcing buses out of “their” safety zone.