Principal's Message

Without doubt the Year 7 Orientation Dinner was the highlight of another fantastic week at Menai High School. Ex student Tra Mi Dinh was our honoured guest speaker and also danced to the delight and amazement of everyone present. Tra Mi graduated in 2012 as one of the State’s best dancers. My assessment of her amazing skills have been affirmed by the many accolades from the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne from which she has just graduated. She was an inspiration to us all and along with her I want to also thank the many others who made this such an inspirational evening for Year 7 and their parents and our staff. In particular I want to thank Mr Bradney, Ms Osborne, Ms Millington, Miss Almond and Mr Skues for organising the entertainment and performers for the evening. I also wish to thank all of the performers/ musicians Connor McMahan, Katie Papadakis, Ashlynn Halavatzis, Maggie Moran, Lauren Constantine, Elena Tskalidis, Melody Lewis, Taylor Opola, Georgia Luckman, Oliver Crowther-Miller, Harry Ellery, Joel Khoury, Jayden Montoya, Emily Pettit, Sam Rosser, Jake Talakowski, Abigail Morgan-Monk, Tushan Chandra, Matthew Chandler, Lara Van den Dolder, Jack Carroll, Cameron Gordon, Aiden Brown, Vittoria Camporeale, Bradley Jarvis, Joshua Johnston, Shute, Megan Shipp, Caitlin Brown, Riley Kassemeyer, Loreena Wells, Jordan Harper, ex-students Corinne Wells, Joshua Mendez, Fergus Bell, Alistair Bell and helpers Jackson Downer, Andrew Stewart, Zac Rowlands, Keeley Hickey, Scarlett Wynn, Sam Turpin, Zuriah Krautz, Taegan Charles, Madison Stone, Taylani Ireland, Adalynn Cole, Michaela Newtown, Tegan Whiffin, Iman Codmani, Georgia Luckman, Emily Chen, Cody Gale, James Walker, Daniel Pazin, Natasha Gladwin, Rachael Lee, Dale McGlynn, Lian Johnstone, Nick Diwell, Zac Adamson, Cameron Burgess, Sarah Clark, Nicholas Diwell, Elizabeth Faust, Reece Holmwood, Lisa Johnston, Liam Johnston, Rachael Lee, Mikaela Luckman, Jordan Macbeth, Ethan Macky, Joseph Messiter, Madeleine Norris, Megan Shipp, Alexandra Shute, Maya Stempien, Caitlin Tullis, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, Hanna Banks, Sarah Ragheb and Alison Willett.

Another really significant and positive piece of data comes from our Sunny Portal (which is available on our website under “Sustainability”) and shows that in the last month we achieved Monthly Production 2594.083AUD and Monthly CO2 Reduction 6603.121kg. The totals since we started in 2013 are now an amazing 332,929kWh produced preventing 233,050kg of coal going into the atmosphere and saving $91,555. This is very impressive and very positive testament to our policies and practices. The graph below shows that 8am-4pm use is very high and reaching maximum capacity on a regular basis.

We are taking some measures to adjust how we do things in order to clear some internet space.

E McNally

Deputy Principal’s Message

On Friday Year 10 had their first team meetings for the Project Based Learning task. The topic for Year 10 is to “Design Something of Value”. Each student is in a team of 4 or 5, and each team has a mentor teacher who assists with the planning and construction of the project presentation. This cohort are our first to do their project this year. All junior years will be participating in project learning throughout the year. The project based learning teacher team is very excited about the projects and are waiting eagerly to see the exceptional work each team will produce. A show case night is planned for the end of semester 1 for all Year 10 teams to present to their parents in a classroom and the top projects in each category will be shown in the hall to all Year 10 parents.

Year 11 and Year 9 have now had the opportunity to change subjects and I will be looking at Year 8 on Tuesday at lunchtime in the library. So if any Year 8 students wish to change an elective come along and I will see if it can happen.

Finally, Year 12 have been through the process of confirming their HSC entry last week. This is a process of checking personal details, courses and signing off on the rules. It is very important that all parents of HSC students are aware of the rules and procedures of the HSC. Your child can access the booklet of the rules on the BOS site Students on line. Your child was also issued a hard copy of the booklet late term 4 last year.

R Allen

Menai High School
Second Hand Uniform Shop

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will operate on Tuesdays from 8.30-9.00am

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Parent Newsletter

Published Weekly

2nd March, 2015

Week 6B

Our internet has been found to struggle in recent times. We indeed have a massive 50Mbit/s gateway which is more than most schools. The congestion is because of day time use by students which is a very positive testament to our policies and practices. The graph below shows that 8am-4pm use is very high and reaching maximum capacity on a regular basis.

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Good News
Miss Bessel would like to thank and acknowledge the following students who have donated blood, Mitchell Nugent, Jordan MacBeth, Dale Skribons, Rachel Weisz, Zac Adamson, Dale McGlynn, Jordan Tavita, Jo Le, Dean Marinevski, Natasha Gladwin, Kayla Nyberg, Josef Richmond and Tom Chen.

Well done to Jazmin Everitt, Benjamin Mann, Emily Cheung and Imogen Boughey from Miss Hardy for their work on the Easter Show display.

Mrs Barrie would like to thank Austin Cootes, Jackson Downer, Andrew Stewart, Byron Dempsey, Jodi Morris and the Entertainment team for their hard work on “The eDiary Episodes”.

Eye Testing – Coming Soon
The school is pleased to announce that the Student Eyecare Program will continue. An optometrist will be onsite during school hours to provide students with a comprehensive eye examination that is covered through Medicare Australia. 1 in 6 students have eye conditions that go undetected. Every attendee will receive a full report about their eye health and a prescription will be provided if glasses are required. The prescription can be taken to any optical store to get the glasses dispensed.

Permission notes will be handed out on Friday 6 March to all Year 7 students. Any student in other grades who did not have the opportunity to have a test in Term 4 2014 can fill in a permission slip as well and participate in the program. Notes will be available next week.

Year 7
Camp is coming up on 16-18th March. 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 Advisers Mrs Basford and Mr Colella. If you would like to know more or have any enquiries about the camp, please contact the Year 7 Advisers.

Vaccinations
Year 7 have been issued with vaccination forms. Parents are encouraged to read all the information and fill in the forms, especially the 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. If you have not filled this in and you would like your child to receive their vaccinations at school for free please return the consent form as soon as possible.

Year 11 and 12 students have also been given the opportunity to have a booster measles, mumps, rubella vaccination this year. 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.

Catch up vaccinations will also occur for any student in Year 8 that missed a dose in Year 7. Any male student in Year 10 who has missed a dose of the HPV vaccine last year must go to their local doctor to complete the course.

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

Y Mazoudier, Head Teacher Welfare

World’s Greatest Shave
I would like to thank Elegance Hairdressers, Menai for their support in helping us reach our goal in this year’s ‘World’s Greatest Shave’. Their generous donation is greatly appreciated.

K Blaylock, Year 10 Adviser

Payment of Fees
In the next couple of weeks we will be mailing out the Student Statement of Account.

Please note that you may have made payments for items that appear on the Statement of Account in the period between the day the letters are mailed out and you receiving them at home. You will need to delete these items from the total amount owing.

Please also note that when paying for multiple items, excursions etc you do not need to send in separate cheques or separate credit card details for each item. Please just send in ONE cheque or credit card payment to cover the total amount owing for all items and list the items that the payment covers on the envelope.

Separate payments are also not required for each individual student you are financially responsible for. Payments due for multiple children can be bundled up into one payment as long as each item being paid for is listed on the envelope.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

J Partridge, School Administration Management

Wellbeing and Wisdom
STOP Program
Throughout 2014, Menai High School implemented an explicit teaching program to improve student’s organisational and study skills. This STOP (Student Time for Organisation and Planning) program involves every student in 7-10 undertaking lessons which develop their ability to self-manage their study. As part of our evaluation process for 2015, we are conducting parent and student surveys to better understand the study habits of our students. Emails will be sent out to all parents who have registered for the eDiary during Week 6. If you would like to be a part of this process and are not on our eDiary, please email the school at menai-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au with your name, email and child(ren)’s names.

Many thanks,
R. Hatzì and the Wellbeing Wisdom Team

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Parent Information Session
Details of the PACTS workshop are as follows:

DATE: Tuesday 24th March
TIME: 1.30-3.30
VENUE: Menai HS – Common Room
RSVP: Please confirm your attendance by calling Janine Brown on 9543 7000 (Ext 130) or by email janine.brown2@det.nsw.edu.au

NOTE: Places limited to 20 participants
If you are unable to attend the information session but would like more detail about PACTS OR if you would be interested in an evening workshop, please contact Janine on the number above.

Senior Seminar Program Schedule – Week 6, Term 1, 2015

| Monday Period 3 | Maths 2U, ESL, Legal Studies |
| Tuesday, Period 3 | Drama, General Maths, Legal Studies, PDHPE |
| Wednesday, Period 3 | Biology, Community & Family Studies, Extension 1 Maths |
2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight 16 June 2015

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- Up to $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- Up to $165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here’s a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-2014 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY
- ONLINE – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE
PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

$150 TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS

2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM
* eligibility criteria apply