To the 1300+ visitors at Open Night we suggested that if our school purpose matched what they wanted they should explore more deeply by viewing the wide variety of video presentations and other information available on our website and then apply to join us. I encourage existing parents and students to take a look as well. I never cease to be amazed at the opportunities and achievements of staff and students at Menai High School. The “Menai High School Way” certainly makes magic happen and dreams become realities. A huge team made Open Night a fantastic event and I thank everyone for their generous efforts.

I enjoyed a very excited email from Ms De Mello last week. I share it for everyone’s delight. “I may sound a little excited but our Open Girls Basketball team just won and on the way they defeated, Endeavour, Alexandria Park and Woolwoolea High Schools. We are Sydney East A Champions. The first time in my career. Sooooooo exciting and the girls were amazing. Thanks De Mello.” Congratulations Madeleine Norris, Clare Murray, Renee Mihaere, Olivia Cooper, Tayla Nisbet, Mya Davies, Halle Hlasiuk, Crystal Li and Lauren Quattropani. The team will now compete against the North Region Quattropani.

I am also very excited to note plans by the SRC to involve our school in “Close the Gap” on 19th of March. National Close the Gap Day is an exciting opportunity to raise awareness on the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. Menai High School has registered. We are encouraging students and teachers to take the 30 for 2030 Challenge, where we pledge to collect 30 names and contact details in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander equality by 2030. We will be distribution information shortly to students and teachers. You can get more info at https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/indigenous-australia/close-the-gap/

Cameron Gordon has also come to my attention as a member of the UNSW Robotics that will be competing in a national competition at Homebush from 11th to 14th March. He will go to university in lieu of the school which I think is amazing and more than a little “cool”. Well done Cameron.

March 9 is a very important P&C meeting where we will, amongst other things, review and consider our policies and practices around the delivery of Special Religious Education at Menai High School. Please join in and have a say.

Deputy Principal’s Message
Welcome to another edition of the school parent newsletter. There are numerous highlights to share with you and I begin with by acknowledging the Gifted and Talented Sports leaders who were awarded jackets on assembly last week. They are: Jyanan Halstead (Year 8)-Cricket, Daniel Crookshank (Year 9)-Karate, Cayle Ford (Year 10)-Tennis and Basketball, Bridget Waterworth (Year 12)-Softball, Ben Jorgenson (Year 10)-AFL, Alyssa Saurine (Year 10)-Athletics, Riahn Griffiths (Year 8)-Athletics, Sarah Siqueira (Year 9)-Swimming and Alysha Haines (Year 11)-Softball.

The Menai High School Open Night was a huge success and extremely well attended by families and the community. I would like to thank Ms Sue Cran—Director of Education for attending the evening and again to the exceptional volunteers – SRC, Year 11 Leadership team and large number of students from all other years who clearly made the evening so special—Zac Adamson, Cameron Burgess, Sarah Clark, Nicholas Diwell, Elizabeth Faust, Reece Holmewood, Lisa Johnston, Liam Johnston, Rachael Lee, Mikaela Luckman, Jordan Macbeth, Ethan Macky, Di McNally, Joseph Messiter, Madeleine Norris, Megan Shipp, Alexandra Shute, Maya Stempien, Caitlin Tullis, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, Alisson Willetts, Caitlyn Angus, Sara Belani, Marissa Fakhouri, Claudia Kabic, Anika McCleod, Jake Park, Danny Liu, Harley Aston, Jalek Talaković, Justin Gilmartin, William Delezio, Oval Hamilton Zuriah Krautz, Taegan Charles, Maddison Stone, Taylani Ireland, Adalynn Cole, Michaela Newman, Tegan Whitfield, Iman Codmani, Georgia Luckman, Emily Chen, Cody Gale, James Walker, Daniel Pazin, Natasha Gladwin, Rachael Lee, Liam Johnston, Jackson Downer, Andrew Stewart, Zac Rowland, Keeley Hickey, Scarlett Wynn and Sam Turpin. The following students helped out in the Food Labs on Open Night Stephanie Austin, Clare Murray, Jacqlyn Cain, Natalie Perin, Nada Dib, Jasmin Stroud, Nicole Stewart and James Markovic.

Parents commented throughout the evening at how they particularly enjoyed the night due to the student leadership in all events, displays and activities. Thanks to the Menai High staff for their tremendous efforts in preparing for the evening and in particular the School Community Participation Team Mr Mundy, Ms Mazoudier, Ms Fernzel, Ms La Rosa, Ms Hennessy, Mrs Basford, Mrs Overall, Ms Millington, Mr Bradley, Ms Macleod, Ms Lewy, Ms Brewer, Ms Sanders, Mr Chiswell, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Allen, Mrs Challinor, Mrs Olyniak, Mrs McNally, Mrs Hanna, Mrs S Moor, Mrs Beck, Ms Williams and Ms Almond. Please remember that all enrolment applications for 2016 must be submitted by 20th March, 2016.

As always, Menai High School students and their Year Advisers do exceptional work in raising awareness to important issues and recently the education around the Year 10 led initiative the World’s Greatest Shave which culminates on March 13 when a range of students and staff shaving or colouring their hair to raise money and awareness to children’s leukaemia has been phenomenal. So far around $8000 has been raised and this is a testament to the passion and drive with which our students approach and support community issues and events. I would like to thank Jacob Mataio (Year 12) who delivered a moving speech about his experiences with Leukaemia and touched every heart in the assembly hall as well as educated all of us about the reality and research needs to continue to find a cure for children’s cancers. Thanks to Ms Blaivock and Ms Ferraro—Year 10 Advisers for their great work in leading this initiative with their Year 10 and the school.

Across the curriculum, Project Based Learning for Year 10 has commenced and we look forward to seeing the final products to each team’s inquiry based learning projects using a range of ICT. I wish Year 12 all the best as they prepare for their Half Yearly examinations later this term and look forward to acknowledging students at the academic effort assembly on the 20th March, 2015.
Wellbeing and Wisdom

Personal Learning Plans

Over the last few weeks all Menai High Students have been writing their new Personal Learning Plans (PLP) for Semester One 2015. The aim of these individualised plans is to encourage each student, in partnership with their teachers and their parents, to set both short and long term goals to motivate them to be more active participants in their own learning and ultimately reach their full potential.

Students in Years 7-10 will be asked to consider the following 4 questions based on their yearly report from the previous year: Where am I now? Where should I be? How will I get there? How will I know when I get there? Input from parents is certainly necessary and encouraged when students write their PLP’s. Access to your child’s PLP is via Moodle which can be accessed from the School website. Students will need to log on to MOODLE using their username and password.


Years 11 and 12 are undertaking PLPs which specifically target HSC study, which is being run during Year Assemblies and roll calls. It would be beneficial for parents to take this opportunity to discuss the PLPs with their child/children and encourage them to work towards their study goals.

L. Ferraro and the Wellbeing Wisdom Team

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

IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS

**Monday 9/3**
- Vaccinations—Years 7, 11 & 12; School Council & P&C Meetings

**Friday 13/3**
- World’s Greatest Shave

**Monday 16/3**
- Year 7 Camp (3 days)
Do you know much about the career options for your child? Would you like to be better informed in helping your son or daughter plan for their future post school? Do you want to know more about Apprenticeships, Traineeships, Job Services Australia, TAFE and University and other support services?

Careers Adviser, Janine Brown is making available a program for parents called PACTS (Parents as Career Transition Supports). The PACTS Program is an information and education workshop specifically developed for parents of secondary school students at all year levels. 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.
2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight 18 June 2015

$150* TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS

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.

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 the form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

Apply online now! 2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM


* eligibility criteria apply

THE BEST HOLIDAYS HAPPEN AT CAMP

Relaxing  Fun  Great value  Safe

Entertain the kids this school holidays with a Sport and Recreation camp. Our popular Kids’ and Family Camps offer a range of exciting activities to keep even the biggest kid entertained. Try your hand at over 40 different activities, including fishing, slip’n’slide, abseiling, crafts, kayaking, cooking and more. Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands.

Kids’ Day Camps start from $47. Family Camp weekends start from $63 per day for kids and $96 per day for adults (kids under 5 attend free, cost includes accommodation, meals and activities).

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