Parent Newsletter

Issue 10  Published Weekly  20th April, 2015  Week 1A

Principal’s Message

Welcome back to Term 2 and another great opportunity to learn and thrive. Late last term I enjoyed a thoroughly new experience when sought out by Indian media re our connections with Steve Smith one of our World Cricket Champions. I never thought I would see anything come of it and was delighted and surprised to receive a copy the next day. I share it for your delight and pleasure. I also share it to remind everyone that Steve was an ordinary kid that pursued a dream and became an amazing world champion. We all have “amazing” in our grasp if we want it.

“School Principal supported Steve Smith’s decision to skip studies and join cricket

BY BIPIN DANI

PUBLISHED: MARCH 27, 2015

AT 1:11 PM

LAST UPDATED: MARCH 27, 2015 AT 1:11 PM

MUMBAI: During his school days, Steve Smith, the 25-year-old right handed Australian batsman and Man of the Match award winner in the Semi Final game against India on Thursday, had earned the approval of his principal to skip the High School Certificate (HSC) and play cricket in England.

Speaking exclusively over her mobile, Edith McNally, the Principal: Menai High School (MHS) said “Steve Smith elected to follow his first love, cricket and although I am firmly committed to every young person having the best basic education, I supported his choice. In retrospect it was a great decision by Steve and a wise bit of advice from the staff team supporting him at school”.

“Steve Smith was a student at Menai High School from 2003 to 2007 when he went out to develop his professional cricket skills in the UK and later Australia. He went with the school blessings and support because while he was a very good student and managed to complete all work in all subjects, his focus, love and passion was for cricket, cricket and more cricket. In 2007 Cricket NSW met with Steve’s school mentor, Deputy Principal Rob Lindsay to discuss possible pathways for maintaining his school based program as well as nurturing his brilliant future in professional cricket. NSW public education strongly supports elite sports people by offering a multitude of pathways through school that allow for elite sport programs including cricket”, she added.

“Steve was always a modest person held in high regard by his teachers and always happily just “one of the boys” at school. He would never draw attention to himself or his talents. When he was selected in the NSW Second Eleven we all found out about it from the newspapers because he would never “blow his own trumpet”. I loved it at the time that Steve filled in as the Australian cricket captain, when one of his Science teachers jokingly reported that he had led Steve Smith in the cricket nets when he was supervising Steve and his mates hitting a few balls down in the school cricket nets”.

“Steve is clearly a person gifted with extra ordinary talents to “read the ball” and “read the game” in cricket. He has clearly made some great decisions in life and in the game which is the focus of his life. We are all very proud of him at Menai High School and he is a fantastic role model for every student, our Menai community and for Australian public education which makes everything possible for every Australian young person that wants to channel their energies and talents into pursuing their dreams”, she concluded.”

Two other Year 7 boys were amazing, honourable and wonderful when they found a gold bracelet and traced the owner via a primary teacher. The bracelet was indeed a very precious family heirloom and its recovery led to a very special reward. Andrew Crookshank and Ali Karnib demonstrated to values of care, commitment, integrity, fairness and honesty that we value and chase at Menai High School. “Well done Ali and Andrew, we hope others note and copy your goodness. We are very proud of you and what you did."

The Royal Easter Show has presented a fabulous background for our students to demonstrate their agricultural talents. I noted with pleasure the following comment on the school’s Facebook—“Congratulations to all our students, I was there on the opening day and many people including officials—commended the students on their behaviour and achievements. It was lovely to hear people praise them and the school. Thanks to all the teachers who go above and beyond, they are doing an amazing job!” We will honour Tara Arduin, Katy Arsmson-Graham, Adriano Stufano, Imogen Boughey, Emily Cheung, Jazmin Everitt, Benjamin Mann, Kristy Martin, Nicolette Renneberg next week but I could not let ANZAC week go by without drawing everyone’s attention to our Bronze Medal winning exhibit using agricultural materials and themes to honour and remember the Gallipoli experience. Our team has done the school and some very dearly held Australian traditions proud. Naturally this photo falls far short of the reality of this amazing and moving exhibit. Thank you to Mr Boyd for organising and preparing the students for the show. E McNally

Deputy Principal’s Message

On Friday the 24th April, 2015 the school will stop to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Anzac Day in what will be a moving ceremony acknowledging the great sacrifices made by the men and women who fought and died in wars representing Australia, the contributions they made and the legacy they left behind which will never be forgotten. I thank Mrs Summerfield and Ms Blaylock. Also, the following students for leading the Anzac Day service this year – Megan Shipit, Caitlin Tulis, Pruden Wilkins-Whetsh, Aisha Aidara, Nicholas Lipscombe, Ethan Macky.

Our students continue to lead as champions of great causes and they were acknowledged in the Leader with a great article paying tribute to a phenomenal effort in raising money for Shave for a Cure this year. Thank you to all of the Menai High School community for their tremendous support and to the community and businesses who gave generously. The article link is provided here http://theleader.com.au/story/3013204/menai-schools-shave-raises-17k-to-help-leukaemia sufferers/ and the current total is now a grand $19,500. Congratulations to Year 10 Advisers-Ms Blaylock and Ms Ferraro for their leadership of such a successful school event. I would like to acknowledge the following students for their outstanding efforts with the highest amounts raised - Natasha Pracy over $1100, Kaitlyn Seretis over $1200, Dani Belani over $1500, Jake Talakovski over 1600 and Luke Adamson over $3370. Thanks also to the brave staff and students who shaved for the cause. I am filled with pride when I see the school community showing such solidarity, positivity and strength whenever an important social event or cause comes along. That is one of the reasons why Menai High School is truly an exceptional school.

Congratulations to all of the grade sports premiers and runners up that received certificates on assembly at the last assembly—Marek Akram, Elise Caldwell, Michela Camporeale, Bailey Curtis, Cameron Gordon, Emma Fox, Courtney McRae, Adam McManus, Jayden Powell, Jye McIlveen, Jarrod Harvey, Angelique Hernando, Nicholas Vandenberg, Tegan Whitfield, Mia Winchester (Runners Up Girls Junior Hockey), Tyson Bridle, Jack Colusso, Jessica French, Ethan Macky, Ethan Windsor (Premiers Mixed Open Hockey), Cameron Ainsworth, Laurence Ang, James Brown, Luke Clifford, Jayden Howard, Loyer Maurer, Shaun McManus, Jayden Powell (Premiers Boys Junior Cricket), Jack Boyling, Ethan Caldwell, Joe Cowell, Joshua Hargreaves, Sam Holloway, Kai Holmewood, Brodie Jones, Kyle McInnes, Adam Ogden, Dillion Petrie (Premiers Boys Junior Basketball), William Clark, Emma Fox, Tiarn Holmewood, Courtney Morden, Makaylaandsen, Tegan Whitfield, Mia Winchester (Runners Up Girls Junior Touch), Tyson Bridle, Jack Colusso, Isabella French, Jessica Head, Alannah Lee, Anna Moran, Carina Tavaris and Peninla Watson (Runners Up Mixed Beach Volley Ball). A reminder to parents and caregivers that Staff Development Day will be held on 4th May, 2015.

Please remember that the as the weather cools students need to ensure that they have adequate clothing and the correct jumpers. If you require additional uniform items the school uniform shop is open today Tuesday 8.00am-12.00pm and Friday 12.30pm-4.30pm.

I look forward to acknowledging the students receiving awards during the Academic Excellence Assembly on the 8th May, 2015.

E Seyed-Rich
Welfare News!

Good News
Ms Lewry and Ms Northover would like to commend their STAFT 3 class for working extremely well in Textiles Technology. Well done to Brandyn Lucock, Reece Dean, William Daley, Sabrine Malas, Jemae Attieh Andary, Robert Townsend Meshel Mahmood, Sarah Ireland and Angelique Hernando for their excellent cooking skills on Open Night from Miss Rozga and Mrs Uiley. Ms Bessell and Miss Loh would like to acknowledge Meggan Ship, Liam Johnstone, Mitchell Toward and Caitlin Tullis of Year 11 for their excellent leadership skills displayed at the Blood Bank Ambassador Training day.

Girls Night
On 22 April the girls from Year 12 have organised a night at school in the hall for girls in Year 9 that will focus on positive image as part of the “Plate up the Positives” initiative founded by the Butterfly Foundation. This connection between Year 9 girls and Year 12 girls was begun with the Year 8 Gender Day in 2014. Female staff from Menai High School have also been invited. The night will run from 6pm-8.30pm and will include a guest speaker. Any female students from Year 9 or Year 12 who would like to attend need to RSVP to Ms Hamilton or Ms Hatz.

Motivational Media
The Motivational Media group will be back at Menai High School Wednesday Week 2 Term 2. The presentation has students engage in social issues relevant to their age group through a media presentation with a discussion held after each session. Students from Years 7-10 will see the performance which will run during a lesson on the day. If you have any questions please contact me to discuss.

Eye Testing Week 1 and 2 Term 2
We have had to change our dates for eye testing. They will now be held in the first two weeks back in Term 2. Sorry for the confusion, students will receive appointment times soon. If you have not yet returned the note but would like your child to participate you can still send the notes in. Spare notes can be found at the welfare office.

Y Mazoudier, Head Teacher Welfare

Sports News
A very successful Sutherland Zone Swimming Carnival saw 44 competitors from Menai High compete. Many of these competitors were able to progress through to the Regional Swimming Carnival last week. At the Regional Carnival 7 competitors were able to earn themselves a spot at the NSW CHS Swimming Carnival. A big congratulations out to Rebecca Selmon, Adam Derwent, Sarah Siqueira, Matthew Chan, Oliver Jones, Mia Winchester and Kyla Daley on their achievements.

Ms De Mello and the Open Girls Basketball team deserve congratulations on becoming Sydney East Champions for 2015. The girls played extremely well in the knockout competition earlier in the term and will now aim their sights on the NSW CHS championship.

Nicole Besz, Iman Codmani, James Markovic, Jack Thorne and Michael Figueira are to be congratulated on being selected to represent Sutherland Zone in Football at the Sydney East Championships.

We have had lots of Regional Trials this past term and many of our students have worked hard to be selected in their chosen sport. The following students are to be congratulated on their fantastic achievements—Kristy Hayward (U16 Touch), Cayle Ford, Callum Norris, Jayme Thorrncaft (Basketball), Jordan MacBeth (Baseball/Lawn Bowls), James Markovic and Michael Figueira (Football), Madeleine Norris, Tayla Nisbet, Clare Murray (Basketball).

K Newman, Sports Organiser

Technology Wizards Program 2015
I would like to congratulate the successful applicants for the Technology Wizards program 2015. The number of applications received were of a high calibre with a wide range of skills and experiences demonstrated by a core group of students from Year 7-11 who are passionate about technology. These student leaders will form a new roll call group this term called the Technology Wizards Team. The TWT will be formally acknowledged at the Week 2 Assembly and will lead learning in technology with staff across the school community in 2015. Well done to the following students—Bernadette Wong SEC, Chars Vinu John TWT, Joshua Thomas TWT, Luke Phillips TWT, Daniel Pazin SRC, Lavinia Meyer TWT, Oliver Jones SEC, Bradley Jarvis TWT, Blake Halstead TWT, Cameron Gordon SEC, Leyton Davies PT, Yacoub Daher TWT, Jackson Curtis TWT, Oliver Crowther-Miller TWT, Tushan Chandra TWT, Caerwyn Bartley TWT, Nicola Barrett TWT, Aidan Brown PT, Alexander Burrell SEC and Kayla Winter TWT.

E Sayed-Rich, Deputy Principal

School Cross Country
The school Cross Country Carnival will be held at school on Friday 24th April, 2015. Year 7 and 8 students are allowed to wear sports uniform all day. Any Year 9-12 students who wish to participate must write their names down in the PE Staffroom by 22nd April, 2015.

Period 1—Year 7
Period 2—Year 8
Period 3—Years 9-12

All asthmatics should ensure they have their puffer on the day.

K Newman, Sports Organiser

School Athletic Carnival
The Menai High School Athletics Carnival will be held on Tuesday 28th April at The Ridge Athletics Track. Buses will leave from the front of the school at 8.15am sharp and return at 3.15pm. The cost will be $5 and is to be paid on the day. All permission notes must be returned to Roll Call teachers as soon as possible. Students who are making their own way to the track must be there by 9am and pay $2 on entry.

All students are encouraged to wear clothing that matches the colour of their sport house. No student will be allowed to leave the ground unless they are with a parent, or have a note from a parent which outlines the time they can leave and the specific details of how they are getting home.

K Newman, Sports Organiser

SEC News
Welcome back for Term 2! This term the SEC would like to encourage everyone to continue their hard work in improving the litter in our playgrounds by picking up their own rubbish and making the area tidy.

Some other, more controversial ways to also help with litter may be:
- Pick up the litter in the playground even if it isn’t your own
- Encourage your friends to help clean up as well
- Get in trouble in class so that you get a detention to pick up papers (we strongly recommend that you don’t choose this option)

Remember that the teachers are participating in a playground cleaning competition as well, where the teachers with the cleanest playground on a regular basis win a prize. Last term the winner was Ms Brown and the teachers she supervises on duty. Say congratulations to Ms Brown if you see her (and ask her to do her impression of Bette Midler).

D Proctor, SEC Coordinator

IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS

Friday 24/4 ANZAC Day Assembly; School Cross Country
Tuesday 28/4 School Athletics Carnival
Monday 4/5 Staff Development Day
Friday 8/5 Formal Assembly
Monday 11/5 Year 11 Exams commence
LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes”. (Marcel Proust, 19th century novelist)

Volunteer to host an international high school student through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at how this unique and rewarding experience can help bring your family together, understand themselves better and see the world in a new light.

We have students aged 15-18 arriving from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Scandinavia in July 2015 who are seeking welcoming families all over Australia, in both rural and urban communities. They will live like a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange.

Capture the spirit of family and friendship – visit us on Facebook or at www.scce.com.au, email scceast@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501 to request a booklet of international student profiles.