Principal’s Message

After broad consultation over two months I am delighted to note that our review of Menai High School’s policies and processes for delivering Special Religious Education (SRE) have been fine tuned and finalized to the extent that the P&C, SRE and HSIE staff all ratified them. They are also consistent and in harmony with the DEC’s SRE policy and it’s various memorandums. In particular we make time available for representatives of DEC approved providers to deliver SRE. At this time a partnership of Christian churches fund an SRE teacher to deliver to Years 7 and 8 students whose parents have not “opted out” of the offering. In addition Year 9 will be offered seminar opportunities by Orthodox and Christian faiths on several Thursday afternoons when normal sport is in recess between seasons/competitions. All students whose parents do not “opt out” will be required to attend. To ensure that every family/student has a current opportunity to decide if they wish to attend OR “opt out” and not attend, a preference letter will be sent to parents of Years 7-10 students outlining the options available for SRE including the option to withdraw/“opt out”.

Students who “opt out” will engage in consolidation, revision and practice work with their normal classroom teacher of that subject. There will be no new work but nor will the time be wasted or learning opportunities lost. This is consistent with our Homework/Homestudy policy which recommends that regular consolidation, revision and practice in all curriculum areas is essential. The NSW Upper House has directed a statewide Review of SRE and SEE and the following advises parents how they can participate. Public opinion on the place of SRE in our public schools is vitally important so please note the directions and participate.

*Review of Special Religious Education and Special Education in Ethics in NSW government Schools

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has commissioned an independent review of the implementation of Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE) in NSW public schools. The review is being conducted by an independent research company, ARTD Consultants. This company provides services in evaluating public policy. The review will inform ongoing improvement of SRE and SEE for the Department and providers.

How can you participate in the review?

You can complete a survey up until 31 July, 2015 via an online portal, located at this link: http://forms.artd.com.au/33/Online-contribution-form-for-parents-careers

The survey is in English and has 19 questions. For most questions you can select an answer from the multiple choice options provided. Only two questions ask for written answers. Extra written feedback for another five questions may be provided if desired but is not essential.

Queries or complaints about the way the review is conducted

For questions or concerns associated with participation in the review or to raise a complaint about the conduct of the review, please contact the Leader, Quality Assurance, on (02) 9244 5025 or by email at SRE-Review@det.nsw.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially.”

The school review noted the ongoing concerns of students re their belief that high school students should have a voice in the state government’s review as well as have a voice in whether they choose to attend SRE at school. The school review did give our student a voice and valued their input. Parents in the school review also expressed concern that often dated information on the enrolment form was being used to obliged their children to attend SRE. (Hence our move to an annual preference letter.) There was also concern expressed about the fact that the choice to participate in SRE by some (often very few) students severely limited the opportunity for other students to learn and progress in the curriculum as well as preventing teachers from teaching. Indeed it was noted the current DEC SRE policy was virtually turning teachers into “supervisors and baby sitters”. The review has been a very enlightening and productive process for the school and I thank all those who participated.

Mrs Sayed-Rich is leading a team of students and teachers preparing for the Refugee Challenge late Term 2. I commend this project to everyone. This has been a very special learning opportunity for the past three years.

Deputy Principal’s Message

A mock refugee camp will extend to Year 10 in six Sutherland schools this year. This is a social issue throughout the world and this experience will contribute to our students developing as “Skilled Learners”, “Skilled Citizens” and “Skilled for Life”. It will contribute to our students’ development as “Skilled for Life”.

We love sharing student success stories but if there is anyone concerned about their full name being published please contact me asap.

E McNally
**Welfare News!**

**Good News**
Ms. Ready would like to commend Imogen Boughey, Emily Chueng and Jazmin Everett for completing additional tasks and working consistently in Primary Industries, Benjamin Mann for building infrastructure for the farm and Kristy Martin for excellent work in theory and practical tasks in Primary Industries.

Mrs. Fragos would like to congratulate Mya Davies, Bella Hadley, Joel Kourey, Brittany Langley, Laura Paull, Brodie Toward and Jayden Tran for very good assessment tasks in ICT.

**Eye Tests**
The eye clinic finished this week. Thank you to all students who participated in the program and had their eyes checked both in Term 4 last year and Term 2 this year. This is a great program and service and we hope to see them back at Menai High School in two years.

**Vaccinations**
The next round of vaccinations will be held on Monday 15th June. Year 7 students will continue with their vaccinations and any student who was absent for the first round of vaccinations will be able to catch up. It is still possible for Year 7 students to opt into the vaccination program. They can pick up a consent package from Ms Mazoudier in the welfare office. Year 8 students still missing a HPV vaccination will have the last opportunity to receive their dose at school on this visit.

Students from Years 11 and 12 who opted to have the booster shot for measles/mumps/rubella will also be called on the day. Students still have the opportunity to participate, they just need to pick up the consent form from the welfare office.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Y Mazoudier, Head Teacher Welfare

**CAPA Semester 1 Showcases**
At the end of Week 7, this term, students involved in Dance, Music and Drama will participate in the Mid-year Showcases, over two nights. The Music showcase will be Thursday 4th June and the Dance & Drama showcase will be held on Friday 5th June both in the hall, starting at 7pm. The tickets are $5 and will be available for purchase both nights from 6pm, at the main entrance to the hall. We encourage you to come along and support our Performing Arts students who will present works from class as well as our extra-curricular programs.

Miss Osborne & CAPA Faculty

**Duke of Edinburgh Award**
Congratulations go to Scarlett Wynn for gaining her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. She has put in a solid 12 months of work to fulfil the requirements of this award. Well done Scarlett on an outstanding achievement.

J Hely

**Wellbeing Wisdom**

**Mental Health**

"Despite all that has been done by successive governments, research shows that suicide remains the leading cause of death for young people aged 15-24. Almost a third of young people have experienced suicidal ideation in their lifetime and in an average year 12 classroom, one young person has made a suicide attempt". This is an excerpt from an article written by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg who is the Managing Director of the Young and Well Co-operative Research Centre (SMH 27/3/15).

If you or a young person you know is suffering from a mental illness please contact the following agencies for advice.

- Kids Helpline 1800 551 800
- Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
- Headspace 9575 1500
- Lifeline 131114

L Ferraro and the Wellbeing Wisdom Team

**Sports News**
It has been a big couple of weeks in sport at Menai High School. We have had our annual cross country and athletics carnivals, for which we somehow managed great weather.

We had excellent participation at both carnivals, making for some great competition. In the coming weeks a large number of these competitors will be representing Menai High at the Zone Cross Country and Athletics. We wish them all the best.

A huge thank you goes out to Xavier Rolton for his very generous donation of a team set of high quality AFL balls to the PDPHE department. These gifts are so greatly appreciated and have such a positive impact on all students.

A big congratulations goes out to Madeleine Norris on her fantastic achievement of being selected in the NSWCHS Basketball Team. Madeleine and Tayla Nisbet competed at the CHS Basketball tournament where they were successful in placing 3rd in the state. A great achievement.

Rebecca Selmon is to be congratulated on her fantastic efforts at the NSW CHS Football (Soccer) tournament where she amazingly gained selection into the NSWCHS (Shadow) Soccer team. A fantastic effort on her behalf.

A big congratulations to Olivia Cooper and Maddison Boyling (Netball) and Jonah Ngaranoa (Touch Football) on their selection into Sydney East Representative Teams. An excellent effort by these students.

U15s Swan Shield AFL Knockout - Menai 7.7.49 defeated Woolooware 3.6.24. The mighty Menai Dragons travelled to Gwawley Oval on Monday to take on Woolooware High in game one of the 2015 Swan Shield Australian Rules Tournament. Captain Xavier ‘the wall’ Rolton won the toss and elected to send the boys into a strong and often gusty headwind in order to make the most of the conditions in the last quarter. The tactic paid dividends as the Dragons were able to draw within two points of the opposition by three quarter time. Kicking with the aid of a considerable breeze, the boys were able to overcome Woolooware’s sturdy defence, with Jye ‘the revelation’ McRae and Josh ‘pocket rocket’ Hargrave kicking accurately to break Woolooware’s competitive spirit once and for all. Players deserving of special mention include Adam ‘the mountain’ Ogden who rucked manfully all game (in his first ever game); and Jack ‘two speed’ Boyling who provided plenty of run off the half back line. Training will take place as usual on Friday lunch in preparation for game two versus the winner of Sydney Tech and Oatley.

K Newman, Sports Organiser

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**Senior Seminar Program Schedule— Week 3, Term 2, 2015**

**Year 11 Exams**