Principal's Message

This is my final Menai High School newsletter and July 24 will be my last day of service at Menai High School and with the Department of Education after 18 years as Menai’s principal and 44 years of service with the Department of Education. I am very excited about my last day as a great celebration of all that is good and uplifting about this remarkable school has been planned. History suggests that the planned performance event will be nothing short of fantastic and that the whole school morning tea that will follow it will also be great fun. If you would like to be there and join in please let Mrs Allen know as I suspect that space will be at a premium.

What memories I will always cherish of this remarkable school. Menai is everything that justifies an evangelical commitment to public education. The pool of talent, passion and commitment is amazing and I am talking about the total team of staff, students, broader parents and teachers. They always show courage and loyalty to support each other through thick and thin. I will never cease to be thrilled to my core that you indulged and partnered me to “think globally” and “act locally” to make this a sustainable school. That we harvest all of our own waste water from our rooves, that our farm is so eco sensitive, that we have recycled paper for 15 years is all amazing but it is mind-blowing that this community raised over $350,000 over three years to become the first school power station is nothing short of “WOW”. Thank you. You are a brave and courageous community driven by goodness and nothing will ever change my perception of what we did as, AMAZING, INCREdIBLE and MARVELLOUS. I know that people used to flee whenever I approached in fear of yet another ticket to be sold or another event for “the cause”. But this school did what no others have done and it will be a lighthouse and a beacon for others to follow. Thank you for letting me take this journey because on my own I am nothing.

And the friends I have made over the past 44 years are a life time gift. We lost some precious people on the way but their memories are our gifts. Some of my closest buddies are my SAS buddies. We eat together every day but their memories are our gifts. Some of my closest buddies are my SAS buddies. We eat together every day but their memories are our gifts. Some of my closest buddies are my SAS buddies. We eat together every day but their memories are our gifts. Some of my closest buddies are my SAS buddies. We eat together every day but their memories are our gifts. Some of my closest buddies are my SAS buddies. We eat together every day but their memories are our gifts. Some of my closest buddies are my SAS buddies. We eat together every day but their memories are our gifts. Some of my closest buddies are my SAS buddies. We eat together every day but their memories are our gifts. Some of my closest buddies are my SAS buddies. 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At my farewell I will be dressed in mourning black because I am so sad that this era of my life is coming to an end. Not everyone is so lucky and privileged to have been fulfilled to bursting by a lifetime of work they are sad to see end. As I move forward into the next chapter of life we will be caravan dwelling grey nomads for the next couple of years after which, health permitting we will continue to add value and goodness to the lives of our family, friends, community and world. My hope for you is that -

- Menai High School continues to thrive as it serves the young people in our community.
- That each and every one of you will live healthy lives with sufficient good food, daily exercise and good relationships to ensure that you can enjoy robust and happy lives into your older years.
- That you will all find work that gives you satisfaction as well as the capacity to contribute to our world.
- And finally I hope that you nurture a spiritual life that shapes your sense of purpose and centres your life on “doing to others as you would have them doing to you”.

All the best for the future.

E McNally

Parent/Teacher Night

Our second Parent/Teacher Night this year will be for Years 8, 9 and 11. It will be held on Tuesday 28th July in the School Hall from 4pm to 7pm. Appointments will be booked online and students have received letters with this information. Uncollected letters are with Year Advisers and all questions/queries should be sent via email to - luke.meagher2@det.nsw.edu.au

We encourage all parents/caregivers to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to meet their child’s teachers to discuss any issues of concern or to develop strategies which will further enhance learning.

L Meagher/N Lewry, Head Teachers Admin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28/7</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Night Years 8,9,11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 30/7</td>
<td>HSC Trial Exams begin - conclude 14/08/2015; Regional Athletics (2 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11/8</td>
<td>Maths Competition</td>
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Parent Newsletter
Deputy Principal’s Message

We are back and well into the swing of teaching and learning and all things that are great about Menai High School. At the end of last term Parent Teacher Night was well attended by parents and caregivers. Feedback to parents is extremely important for improvement and success at school. Thanks to Ms Lewry for her organisation of this important evening.

Currently, Years 8, 9 and 11 are receiving their reports and I encourage you to make a parent teacher interview for your child for the next Parent Teacher Evening on 28th July, 2015. The highlights of the Refugee Camp in My School challenge will be aired next weekend on the Weekend Sunrise program with host Andrew O Keefe. The Shire High schools participating were great ambassadors for their schools and the Gynsea Technology High and Menai High program facilitators did an outstanding job in presenting their knowledge about refugees to over 200 students.

The success of this learning experience was reported in the Leader newspaper. Please see the web link provided: http://www.theleader.com.au/story/3168317;students-walk-path-of-refugees-for-a-day/

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding leadership and organisation of the following student leaders from Menai High School and Gynsea Technology High School and teachers involved in the program.

1. AID: Tegan Whitleiff (MHS) with Bella (GHS)
2. Water/ Sanitation: Emily Chen (MHS) with Joshua Graham (GHS)
3. Medical: Georgia Luckman (MHS) and Samara (GHS)
4. Food: Michaela Newtown (MHS) and Desiree Warren (GHS)
5. Education: James Walker (MHS) and Mikaeza (GHS)
6. Leaky Boat: Jacob Del (MHS) and Tea (GHS)
7. Detention: Adalynn Cole (MHS) and Elizaah (GHS)

The staff commenced school development day with an examination of the School Excellence Framework and the teaching dimension of the framework. Staff also engaged in professional learning in technology embedded teaching and learning practices in the classroom and in education. The Technology Wizards Team (TWT) assisted in the delivery of some of the Staff Development workshops and I thank Ms Blanche, Evan Rofe and Jacqueline Chiswick, Ms Sc opr, Mr Kallon, Mr Tomalaris and Mr Miller for their facilitation of the Technology Workshops. More information about The School Excellence Framework can be found at the following link: http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/about-the-department/our-reforms/school-excellence-framework

NADOC Week was commemorated in an outstanding assembly in the last week of term that was organised by Ms De Mello, Ms Gardner and Mr Kelly – Aboriginal Education program coordinators. The assembly was also led with speeches by Dylan Janos Year 7 and Christian Fermon Year 7, Aedden Hurt and Katherine Hensler Year 10.

Last Friday’s weekly assembly highlighted the outstanding student leadership and values education program that is delivered through the formal assemblies with initiatives such as supporting the World Vision 40 hour famine, Year 9 Kenya Aid initiative that encourages the sponsorship of a school in Kenya, the ACSCSM initiative led by the Year 11 Leadership team and the Technology Support Program lead by the Technology Wizards Team. Thanks to Ms Bessell Year 10 adviser, Ms Hamilton Year 9 Adviser, Ms Blanche TWT coordinator and Ms Mazoudier Head Teacher Welfare for their coordination of these great programs. Menai High develops students into Skilled Citizens and Citizens for Life. Well done to Georgia Turner and Teagan Whitleiff Year 9 for their presentation, Oliver Crowther-Miller Year 7 TWT Team and his presentation to google docs, Stu den Help desk initiative and Joseph Messiter and Alexandra Shute Year 11 Leadership Team.

I’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the distinguished leadership of our school Principal Mrs Edith McNally as she officially retires on the 24th July, 2015. Mrs McNally’s exceptional contribution to public education is widespread and her long and distinguished career as teacher, Head Teacher, Leading Teacher and Principal at Menai High School for 18 Years. Mrs McNally’s significant contribution to public education and her educational leadership and management has been acknowledged many times and most recently when she received the Department of Education Principal’s Award in 2014. Her legacy will live on in the Menai High School and education community for generations to come. Mrs McNally leaves a thriving and outstanding school and the staff, students and community wish her a wonderful and exciting retirement. She will be sorely missed as we acknowledge her retirement this coming week and a special assembly and retirement dinner.

Year 12 has received a letter outlining the key academic and behaviour expectations in the last phase of their learning. As Year 12 near the end of their schooling and I acknowledge that it is an exciting time, it is also paramount that students behave in a safe and respectful manner. There is ample time after the exams for students to celebrate safely. I commend Year 12 on their application and behaviour this year.

Students are expected to work to achieve the best outcomes for their HSC. Whilst this has been a culmination of preparation of the last two years, students have been reminded that students also needed to continue to focus on their study requirements as they complete their HSC courses and prepare for their upcoming trial examinations.

The letter outlines clearly what the consequences are for breaches to the school discipline policy. I’d like to wish Year 12 the best as they prepare for their trial examinations. I ask parents and caregivers of Year 12 students that if they notice their son or daughter is excessively anxious or stressed in the lead up to exams that they contact the school and speak to the Year Advisers or Head Teacher Welfare support.

Subject Selection evening for Year 8 and Year 10 was extremely well attended. I thank the parents and carers who braved the cold to support their child’s education. Thanks also to Head Space Miranda and in particular to Heidi Erickson who gave an excellent presentation examining one of the most important youth health issues – mental health. An electronic version of the presentation will be uploaded to the school’s website shortly. Also, support contact information was disseminated however this can also be accessed by families through the website http://headspace.org.au/headspace.

Welfare News!

Welcome back, I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

Good News

Ms Scevity would like to congratulate 7M History for their outstanding minor lessons on Anconet China in which they became the experts teaching one another. Ms Souris would like to acknowledge Sharon Fang of Year 12 Hospitality and James Giffen in Year 9 Food Technology for always working diligently in their subject areas. Well done to Brae Limnegar, Michael Christofis and Lenni Tsavaris of 7I and Ben Docwra, Stephen Ergos and Kate Pinnock of 7H from Miss Loh for excellent effort in the Year 7 Morning tea. Miss Loh and Mrs Hanna would like to thank Lachie Jones, Jac Anjore and Nat Georgopoulos for helping with the fundraising for the Menai High School Space Camp trip. Despite the fact they are not attending the camp their time, effort and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

Keeping The School Updated

Sadly sometimes relationships break down and the court makes orders that change the contact parents can have with their children or the role they play in making decisions about their children’s education. These can be Family Court Orders or Apprehended Violence Orders.

If this happens it is important that you provide the school with a copy of any court orders that could impact on your child’s education.

In the absence of any notification to the contrary, the school will assume that both parents continue to retain a shared and equal parental responsibility for their children and should be involved in making any decisions regarding their children’s education. This means that the school will recognises that each parent has equal duties, obligations, responsibilities and opportunities in relation to matters involving the school.

If any changes occur in your family relationships which have the potential to impact on the relationship between the school and your family, please advise the school immediately and provide a copy of any court orders that may be relevant. These orders will be stored securely and only accessed by staff who need to see them in order to ensure for your children’s learning support and related issues.

Also, I encourage all parents to ensure that the school is regularly updated regarding changing addresses and contact details as well as all medical information or family situations that may be affecting your child so that we can support them as much as possible at school.

Y Mazoudier, Head Teacher Welfare

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orientation Group</th>
<th>Menai HS</th>
<th>Gynsea THS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Sian De Mello</td>
<td>HSIE coordinator</td>
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<td>Ms Caitlyn Overall</td>
<td>SRC Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Mikhail Kallon</td>
<td>Student Learning Support Officer</td>
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<td>Mr and Mrs Tomalaris</td>
<td>Volunteers and program coordinator</td>
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<td>Ms Jenny Grey</td>
<td>Gynsea Community Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Steve Sanders</td>
<td>General Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Julie Smith</td>
<td>Head Teacher HSIE</td>
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E Sayed-Rich
**Wellbeing Wisdom**

School Uniform
The Menai High School community has decided that MHS is a full uniform school. Students are expected to wear the Menai High School uniform each day. However, at times, students question the reasons why a school uniform is necessary. The wearing of school uniforms by students not only addresses legislative requirements surrounding Health and Safety but also Equality and Anti-discrimination laws. For students this means that by wearing a school uniform they develop a sense of belonging to the school community and it provides opportunities for them to build school spirit. Wearing a uniform also promotes a sense of inclusiveness and non-discrimination among the student body. If there is an extenuating circumstance when a child is unable to wear all or part of their school uniform, a note with an explanation from a parent is required. For more information on the Menai High School uniform policy and Uniform shop opening times and prices, click on http://www.menai-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/school-uniform

L Ferraro and the Wellbeing Wisdom Team

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**Gifted & Talented Corner**


These Paper Pilots will now represent our school at the University of Sydney Open Day on Saturday 29th August.

Don’t forget our ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY CLUB!
Tuesdays 5.00-6.30pm in Lab 3 until Week 5
(Please Note: Club will not run on 28/7/15 due to Parent/Teacher interviews)

A Hanna

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**WHY NOT HOST AN OVERSEAS STUDENT?**

We have been invited again to host group of co-ed Indonesian high school students for just 12 days in early September. These students are learning English in their home country and will be coming to Australia with their English teacher, to improve their conversational English and to experience our Australian culture and our beautiful natural environment.

We are seeking expression of interest from school families who might be interested in hosting a student during their time at Menai.

During their stay, the group will integrate with Menai High School students and also have several excursions to experience Australian culture, animals and our beautiful scenery.

Home stay hosts will be paid a tax free allowance for each student which will more than defray the costs of hosting.

All that is required is to provide a clean and tidy bedroom, and to provide meals, (packed lunch on school days), and to provide transport to and from school each day. This can include travelling with your child to and from school, by school bus.

As well as the stimulation of having a foreign student share your home for a few days, this will be a rewarding and memorable experience for Host families and students alike.

Why not consider hosting a student in your home & enjoy this positive and rewarding experience?

Please contact Bill Clark on 0418 215 990 or bill.clark@edexaustralia.com.au or Julie Taylor/Leonie Ferraro at Menai High on 9543 7000

L Ferraro

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**Girls Open Softball Success**

For the second year in a row, Menai High’s Open Girls’ Knockout Softball Team progressed to the State finals in Newcastle. We lost our first match to Leumeah High, suffering injuries to two of our ten players along the way. The girls soldiered on in their second match played in abysmal conditions with rain having fallen all day and the grounds now a quagmire. We narrowly lost this ‘game’.

On the second day we won our two matches, finishing in 13th position in the State.

All the players showed great skill, fortitude and teamwork in the very trying conditions. Many had to play in new positions to cover injured players and everyone showed moments of brilliance. A big thank you to Alessandra, who joined the team at the last minute to fill in for another injured player, and to our loyal band of supportive parents.

The following girls were a credit to their school and families: Jodie Bigeni (Year 11), Alessandra Camporale (Year 10), Georgina Foran (Year 10), Alysha Haines (Year 11), Erin McDonagh (Year 8), Rachel Paul (Year 10), Nicoletta Renneberg (Year 11), Alyssa Saurine (Year 10), Jessica Tibbits (Year 11), Bridget Waterworth (Year 12)

Hopefully, their bruises, pulled muscles and crushed fingers are healing!

Mrs Cooper (Coach)

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**Affordable Education Courses**

**Courses Held at Hurstville & Jannali Centre**

All classes taught by professional teachers
- Years 7-10
  - English - spelling, grammar and punctuation
  - Essay Writing Skills
  - Maths
- Specialist HSC Classes
  - Year 11 Essay Writing
  - HSC English Modules
- HSC Maths Stage 6 (General Advanced & Extension)

For more details please ring St. George & Sutherland Community College Tel: 9528-3344 or visit our website www.sgssc.edu.au

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**Free Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshops for Learner Driver Parents in the Sutherland Shire**

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes. That’s why the Roads and Maritime Services has introduced a new licensing scheme, with more supervised driving practice for learner drivers.

To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the Roads and Maritime Services has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents offering practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

A FREE parents’ workshop will be conducted by David Riches and hosted by Sutherland Shire Council on Wednesday August 12th Sutherland Shire Council Offices in Eton Street from 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm.

Early bookings are essential, by phoning Council on 9710 0341 now to reserve your place, or email mstu-art@ssc.nsw.gov.au
NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA School Students with Disability

From 2015, all Australian schools are required to participate each year in the annual collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability.

This collection of data (NCCD) is based on the professional judgement of teachers about their students. The model underpinning the data collection reflects the work of schools in supporting their students in accordance with obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and Disability Standards for Education 2005.

Schools will record information annually about:

- the number of students receiving an adjustment for disability as defined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education
- the level of adjustment each student is receiving
- the broad category of disability of each student.

Students being provided with an adjustment for disability are included in the annual data collection where there is documented evidence held by the school that:

- the adjustment is provided for a minimum of 10 weeks or a term
- the adjustment is based on the assessed educational needs of individual students
- the adjustment is provided in consultation with the student and/or their parents and carers
- the impact of the adjustment is monitored

The model for the national data collection reflects and supports the ongoing work of schools throughout the year in meeting the educational needs of every student.

D Cooper, Head Teacher Learning Support

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2015 information for parents and carers

**WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?**

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with.

The national data collection will count students who have been identified as receiving an adjustment to address a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (the DDA). The DDA can be accessed from the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

**WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?**

The aim of the national data collection is to collect better information about school students with disability in Australia.

This information will help teachers, principals, education authorities and families to better support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

The national data collection is an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

**WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?**

All schools across Australia collect information about students with disability. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory and across government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

When implementing the national data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect information. Therefore, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in regional Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through the national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. The data will help schools to better support students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without disability.

**WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?**

All students are entitled to a quality learning experience at school.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments, where needed, to assist students with disability to access and participate in education free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.

These responsibilities are outlined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards). The Standards require educators, students, parents and others (e.g. allied health professionals) to work together so that students with disability can participate in education.

The Standards can be accessed via the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

**WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?**

A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. Reasonable adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps into school buildings), in the classroom (such as adapting class lessons) and at an individual student level (e.g. extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

**WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?**

Every year a child’s school will collect the following information for each student with a disability:

- the student’s level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
- the student’s level of adjustment
- the student’s broad type of disability.

The information collected by schools will be provided to all governments to inform policy and
Relating as Stepfamilies

This one-session program assists couples to manage the demands of life as a stepfamily.

It will assist parents to:

- examine the challenges and positives of stepfamilies
- examine personal beliefs and the effects of holding onto these
- highlight the losses stepfamilies have suffered
- recognise the importance of developing stepfamily rituals
- compare different communication styles

Saturday, 9:30am to 4:30pm
22 August 2015
Cost: $75 per couple
Venue: Interrelate (Caringbah)
Address: 383-385 Port Hacking Rd
Caringbah

Bookings Essential – Phone 8522 4408