Parent Newsletter

Acting Principal’s Message

Last week started with a wonderful story ‘A Lesson in the Life of a Refugee’ aired on Weekend Sunrise showcasing the Refugee Challenge held at Menai High a few weeks ago. If you did not see the article you can view it on the Sunrise trip page https://au.yahoo.rights/sunrise/weekend-sunrise/#page2 using this link. On Monday at school myself and Mrs Sayed-Rich received a number of calls from other schools in Australia wanting to use the Refugee program at their school. They had watched the program on Sunday noting how powerful and rich the learning experience was for the students and could see it benefitting their students in their development of understanding and respecting the lives and experiences of refugee people. Andrew O’Keefe asked Mr Kallon “Do you think there is something in common with each refugee that comes to Australia?” and Mr Kallon responded with this simple but powerful statement “We all wish to smile we are always smiling we just want to be happy like any other person. Andrew I am assuming you are a father and what you want for your child is what I want for every refugee to have for their child, does that explain it Andrew?”

These types of learning experiences are very important in developing the values and attitudes of our young people, reflecting the exit outcome Menai strives to achieve in all students to be a Skilled Citizen. Congratulations Mrs Sayed Rich, Mr Kallon and your team.

During last week the school started its evaluation process. Mr Scott and his evaluation team have developed processes and procedures to collect data from staff parents and students concerning three selected areas of the school. Currently the evaluations are being run for English, CAPA and Sport. As a staff we have also been looking at data collected in the student survey ‘Tell Us From Me’. The survey was conducted in Term 2 this year with over 900 students from Year 7 to 12 participating in the surveys. At Thursday’s executive meeting Caerwyn Bartley and Joshua Thomas-Altken were tremendous in presenting results from the parent survey conducted by the Technology Wizards at Parent/Teacher night. They presented some very interesting results and recommendations. Well done team and Mrs Blanche. This program of evaluation across the school and data analysis will provide the school with directions for the future to ensure continued improvement in students learning outcomes and teacher learning.

Last Friday Elizabeth Faust (Year 11) and Brittany Southern (Year 10) did an outstanding job umpiring at the PSSA netball semi-finals. The call for umpires came very late on Thursday but these young people jumped at the opportunity to help our primary schools. Congratulations to a number of students who have recently represented Sydney region Rebecca Selmon, Jesse Paice and Travis Thorpe for cross country. Other students also need to be congratulated on their exceptional results being selected in regional teams, Jessica Barber and Sarah Ireland will be competing in Trampolining at the NSWChSSA carnival in Gosford and Adam Ogden in Athletics.

The Year 11 leadership team Zac Adamson, Cameron Burgess, Sarah Clark, Nicholas Diwell, Elizabeth Faust, Reece Holmewood, Lisa Johnston, Liam Johnston, Rachael Lee, Mikaela Luckman, Jordan Macbeth, Ethan Macky, Dale McGlynn, Joseph Messiter, Madeleine Norris, Megan Shute, Alexandra Shute, Mavy Stempien, Caitlin Tullis, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, Alison Willetts and Ms Mazoudier are continuing to build the culture of tolerance, respect and caring at Menai High. They held a wonderful event last Friday at lunch time which celebrated the many wonderful cultures we have at Menai High. Students were able to place a fingerprint on a large world map to indicate the country/ies of their cultural background. Our SRC are celebrating and promoting happiness with different messages around the school. It is a very simple concept but is an excellent way to create a place which shows it cares. Our Year 11 leaders will soon be presenting the vision they have for Menai High when they present their speeches. This process will result in the selection of the student senior leaders. I wish all the candidates the best of luck in the process. All of the current leadership team are wonderful young people.

Year 12 are continuing their exams and many students have now completed and submitted their major projects for Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, Visual Arts, Society and Culture and Extension History. Congratulations on your achievements. The HSC Music class performed well in their HSC exam last Friday night. A big thankyou to the Music teachers Mr Bradley, Ms Williams and Head Teacher Mr Kelly for supporting the students with their performances. Year 7 completed their Project Based Learning task last week. Their topic was ‘Making the World a Better Place’. I am very impressed with the mature and commitment approach Year 7 displayed during the task. They have been outstanding.

The showcase for Year 7 projects will be Monday 14th September from 6pm in the school hall.

It’s always great to celebrate the successes of our past Menai students and I want to celebrate Erin Bell’s selection in the Australian Diamonds Netball Team. She is currently taking part in the World Championships being held in Sydney this week. We wish her the best of luck. The opening ceremony of the World Championships also had a Menai connection with two current students Abby Shepherd and Natalie Grzetic participating in it. What a wonderful experience.

I will again finish with a reminder that all students need to bring their laptop to school each day for their classes. If the laptop is being repaired your child must speak to their teachers. If students do not have their laptop teachers will be issuing consequences. Social Media has again been raised as an issue. Parents need to become very proactive in teaching your child to be safe and also a responsible user of social media. Consequences will be issued to students who need to understand that the digital footprint they are creating now will live with them forever.

R Allen

Relieving Deputy Principal’s Message

Our Year 12 students have been actively preparing for their various HSC trial examinations over the last week. For the first time our HSC students have external supervision for the examinations. This means that there are no familiar faces but rather the same supervisors who will be running the final BOSTES examinations in Term 4. Without knowing the students these supervisors have already made numerous comments on the diligence and friendliness of the Year 12 cohort. This is a great aspect in working in a comprehensive public high school with a fantastic group of students and they are to be commended on their behaviour and attitude in these examinations.

Our curriculum at Menai High school is a rich and diverse one which is generated through an abundance of highly committed and extensively trained teachers. Not many other high schools, whether public or private, have such a wide variety of choices for students. It is a facet of our school that continues to see us being the envy of local schools. Our Year 10 students have finalised their HSC curriculum choices and this process of timetabling is already well underway for 2016, enabling us to see the interests that this cohort are pursuing. We are looking at their choices with anticipation of what the future class of 2017 will achieve. It seems a long way into the future but for those of us who have seen a few cohorts through it will occur in the blink of an eye.

Sport is another area of significant achievement for our school. In the last week we have had the regional athletics carnival and wait with anticipation the results of our athletes. It is also coming to my attention that a large number of students have scheduled doctors’ appointments during Thursday sport time. Sport is a compulsory part of a child’s education and, as such, carries the same importance as classroom lessons in developing well-rounded adults. Simply, according to the Department of Education, Sport is mandatory. If a student has an injury they are still required to be present possessing a signed parent note with a valid reason and either sit in non-sport or attend their normal sport. If an early leavers pass is required the student must present it to the Deputy Principal on Wednesday morning (the day before). We appreciate that scheduling conflicts can occur but want to ensure that all students at Menai High School are meeting educational requirements.

I look forward to another busy yet productive week of student learning.

K Scott

IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10/8</td>
<td>HSC Trial Exams (all week); Ski Trip (3 days); School Council Meeting 6pm; P&amp;C Meeting 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11/8</td>
<td>Maths Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17/8</td>
<td>Year 7 Swim School (all week)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welfare News!

Good News

Ms Wearing would like to congratulate Scarlett Wynn, Caitlin Angus and Angelina Cassiniti on their outstanding History Extension projects. She would also like to commend Caitlin Angus on her exemplary Trial HSC examination preparation. Ms Wearing would also like to acknowledge Max Gawlowski and Natasha Lawson for their outstanding contribution to a class discussion on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ms Scenvity would like to commend Year 12 Modern History for their excellent Trial Examination responses.

Also I would like to congratulate Alexandra Shute and Madeleine Norris for their excellent posters to promote a Racism Day.

Students with Asthma in School

The department of Education mandates that all students with Asthma who carry a puffer or any student that carries an asthma puffer must present an Asthma plan to the school each year. The Asthma plans are available online from the Asthma Australia site (www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/asthma_action_plan.aspx) and also from your doctor. The form indicates that your child has been diagnosed and is being treated for asthma and the required medication. It must be signed by a doctor.

If your child carries a puffer please ensure you have sent a plan to the school. If you would like to discuss this please do not hesitate to contact me.

Y Mazouder, Head Teacher Welfare

Wellbeing Wisdom

Wellbeing A to Z

While there is a natural tendency to focus on your child’s reading, writing and number skills, a fundamental aspect of school success is your child's physical, mental and social development. You will find a wealth of useful advice on the ‘School A to Z’ site as well as suggestions to help you and your child navigate through these changing times.


R Hatzi and the Wellbeing Wisdom Team

Gifted & Talented Corner

Tuesday 11th August will be our last week of Astrophotography for now due to the later sunsets. So far we have photographed Jupiter with Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto, Venus in a couple of different phases, Mercury and of course our very own and very beautiful Luna.

Hope to see you there!

Tuesday 5-6.30pm - Lab 3

“For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams”

Edgar Allan Poe

A Hanna

Concert Band

Thank you to the following students who did an outstanding performance at Mrs McNally’s Farewell Gala on 24th July, 2015 - Oliver Crowther-Miller, Harry Ellery, Joel Khoury, Jayden Montoya, Samuel Rosser, Abigail Morgan-Monk, Tushan Chandra, Taegan Charles, Matthew Chandler, Matthew Dwyer, Lara Van den Dolder, Jack Carroll, Cameron Gordon, Emily Chen, Bradley Jarvis, Joshua Johnson, Ethan Macky, Madeleine Norris, Alexandra Shute, Megan Shipp, Caitlin Brown, Sian Griffiths and Loreena Wells.

M Kelly, Head Teacher CAPA

Woolworths Earn & Learn 2015

Dear Parents,

This year we will again be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school – and all we need you to do is collect Earn & Learn stickers when you shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box here at the school or at your local Woolworths.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library.

Thanks for your help.

Mrs Cooper and the Menai High Library staff

CAPA Tour Fundraiser

This term we are running a fundraiser through Loftus Pies for the CAPA Tour in Term 4. Attached to the newsletter is an order form, with all of the information. The due date for orders will close on Friday 14th August with payments to go to the front office and order forms returned to the Music Staffroom. Pies will be delivered Tuesday 25th August. We would really appreciate your support with this fundraising opportunity for the students attending the CAPA tour.

E Osborne

Senior Seminar Program Schedule—Week 5, Term 3, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Period 3</th>
<th>English, Society &amp; Culture, Physics, Music, Hospitality, PDHPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chemistry, English, IPT, SDD, Business Services, Legal Studies, PDHPE/SLR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td>Geography, English, ESL, PDHPE/SLR</td>
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**Careers News**

**ADFA Road Show - 19th August 2015**

Defence Force Recruiting would like to invite you to attend the upcoming ADFA Commandant Road Show.

**When:** Wednesday, 19th of August 2015 at 7:00pm  
**Where:** Manpower Head Office - Level 22 Tower 2, Darling Park 201 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Attending this event will provide students and their parents with the opportunity to meet ADFA Commandant Air Commodore Alan Clements and Deputy Rector Professor John Arnold who will be speaking about military and academic life at ADFA as well as answering any questions and concerns you may have.

To reserve your seat, please RSVP to CPTNSWEvents@dfr.com.au with your full name, contact number and subject: ADFAROADSHOW2015.

**University of Wollongong (UOW) OPEN DAY - 15th August**

Go along and find out about courses, back up plans, early entry requirements, UOW College and lots more. Visit the website for more information - www.uow.edu.au/openday

J Brown, Head Teacher VET/Careers Adviser

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**Sports News**

Students will be able to select their summer sport from the following list in Weeks 5 and 6.

P Phease, Sports Organiser

**Summer Sports Offered - Commences 3/9/2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 10 - all do House Sport</th>
<th>Year 8 &amp; 9 Only</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surfing</td>
<td>$8*</td>
<td>Fitness Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surf Survival</td>
<td>$8 + Certificate Cost</td>
<td>Menai Indoor Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>Golf Coaching - Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>Dance*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Plot*</td>
<td>Beach Fitness</td>
<td>$8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Band</td>
<td>YMCA Revesby - Gymnastics/Rock Climbing</td>
<td>$7</td>
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Mountain Biking (Occasional cost for bus)

- **NOTE:** Sports with an * require permission from the teacher in charge  
  Surf Survival must be completed before students can participate in Surfing

**All Years Grade Sports ($8 bus cost)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 Basketball</td>
<td>Junior Super 8’s Cricket (Years 7&amp;8)</td>
<td>Open Mixed Hockey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Basketball (Year 7&amp;8)</td>
<td>Year 9 Beach Volleyball</td>
<td>Junior Beach Volleyball (Years 7&amp;8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 Touch Football</td>
<td>Year 9 Touch Football</td>
<td>Junior Mixed Waterpolo (Years 7&amp;8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Junior Touch Football (Years 7&8)**  
**Junior Touch Football (Years 7&8)**  
**Year 9 Beach Volleyball**

**Additional Costs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beach Volleyball</th>
<th>Hockey</th>
<th>Waterpolo</th>
<th>Basketball</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>one off payment of $10</td>
<td>one off payment of $50</td>
<td>$4.70 each week</td>
<td>one off payment of $70</td>
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**WHY NOT HOST AN OVERSEAS STUDENT?**

We have been invited again to host a 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 all 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
Menai High School
CAPA Tour - Pie Drive

Please make cheques payable to “Menai High School”

Please return order & payment by Friday 14th August, 2015

Order will be delivered on Tuesday 25th August, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Customer Name</th>
<th>Family Steak Pie</th>
<th>Potato</th>
<th>Family Steak &amp; Curry</th>
<th>Mushroom</th>
<th>Tomato &amp; Onion</th>
<th>Family Steak &amp; Onion</th>
<th>Family Vegetables</th>
<th>Delightful Apple Pie</th>
<th>Family Apricot Pie</th>
<th>Lamington Bar</th>
<th>Banana Bar Cake</th>
<th>Carrot Bar Cake</th>
<th>Vanilla Block Cake</th>
<th>Choc Block Cake</th>
<th>Orange Block Cake</th>
<th>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$9</td>
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GRAND TOTAL

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