Acting Principal’s Message

Each time I sit to write my report for the school newsletter I reflect on what a great place of learning Menai High School is for students and teachers. Last week our school Tournament of Minds team of Connor Warhurst, Cameron Gordon, Natasha Pracy, Jordan Momincevski, Tushan Chandra, Alexandra Matruglio, Oliver Crowther-Miller, Matthew Chandler, Taegan Charles, Maddison Gattenby, Alexander MacRitchie, Aidan McLeod and James Forder competed in the Sydney East Regional competition at Sydney Girls’ High School. This competition really tests the students’ ability to solve problems, work collaboratively and bring content from many subjects to help create their presentations. Students also have to solve an impromptu problem and present this to the judges and audience. The team performed really well and entertained the judges. Thank you to Ms Hanna and Mr Wilson for giving up part of their weekend to accompany the students. Teachers are currently under-training in Disability Standards for Education from the University of Technology Sydney. This training helps to build capacity and knowledge of our teachers to improve student learning outcomes.

NAPLAN results have been released and have been distributed to your child last Friday. If you have any questions about the report you have received please contact the school. Last Thursday the executive team started to analyse Menai High School results. We are achieving impressive growth of students in Year 9 and 7 numeracy, Year 9 reading, writing and spelling. Learning support, literacy and numeracy teams along with our NAPLAN data and data at ways to teachers can support student development in literacy and numeracy.

Last Friday the 2015 Year 11 Leadership team Zac Adamson, Cameron Burgess, Sarah Clark, Nicholas Diwell, Elizabeth Faust, Lisa Johnston, Liam Johnston, Rachael Lee, Mikaela Luckman, Jordan Macbeth, Ethan Macky, Dale McGlynn, Joseph Messiter, Madeleine Norris, Megan Shipp, Alexandra Shute, Prudence Watkins-Wheat and Alison Willetts presented their speeches to the school assembly. This is one of the final processes for the leadership team in being selected as the 2016 captains and vice captains. All the students were outstanding and I have full confidence in whoever is selected to lead the school - we will have very capable, responsible and exceptional leaders. Well done to Ms Mazoudier, Ms Bessel and Ms Scevity for supporting this fabulous group of young people.

Congratulations to the Menai High Open Boys Softball team Bailey Curtis, Dylan Holdstock, Jack Karssemeyer, Jared Sparke, Luke Adamson, Jai Anderson, Cory Bowles, Jackson Curtis, Leyton Davies, Harrison Nowoczynski, Harrison Tasker and Joshua Thomas who competed in the NSWCHS Knockout Finals last week at Newcastle. The team gained an outstanding 8th position and Ms Ryan was very impressed with the team’s sportsmanship and positive attitude during the games. The Under 15s Basketball team - Emma Lonsdale, Kyra Van Winden, Tayla Welsh, Georgie Winsdale, Mya Davies, Halle Hlasiek, Alyssa Saurine and Jessica Kisur played last Wednesday and were successful and now move on to play Sydney Girls’ High School. Well done girls and also to Ms De Mello their coach.

Year 7 are currently participating in swim school. This is a very important program. It develops important life skills so students can save themselves when they are participating in water activities. It also allows students to develop skills to help save others when near or in the water. It is very important that all students understand what to do to keep them safe and in the future be responsible adults/parents who understand how to save their own children if ever a situation arises.

Our senior students in both Years 11 and 12 are approaching the end of their courses. Year 11 start exams in Week 8 and should currently be doing regular reviewing and preparation for the examinations. Year 12 need to also use these final weeks at school to work on the feedback provided by the teachers and practise examination questions. R Allen

Relieving Deputy Principal’s Message

Evaluating is an important process to determine that objectives have been met and to guide future planning. Recently our school has developed a timeline by which we will evaluate a variety of faculties and programs. This year our English faculty was evaluated in terms of assessment and reporting, while CAPA evaluated student feedback. Our system of implementing carnivals was also analysed. The feedback was presented at the executive conference last Thursday and provided positive discussion of how to progress the learning of our students. I’d like to commend the student focus groups that met during the evaluation period. The comments they provided were invaluable to our research. Be assured that the findings of this process will be implemented improving our curriculum. I’d like to acknowledge the work of Ms Vicky, Mr Robinson, Ms Mazoudier, Mrs Ferraro and Miss Almond in undertaking this procedure.

The executive conference was also utilised to ensure that there is a shared vision for 2016 with the setting of many of the core tasks we undertake at Menai High School. Decisions were made on the progression of Project Based Learning and the seminar program for Year 11. Menai High School does many things well, with the goal being leaders in teaching and learning. Both of the mentioned programs support the implementation of teaching and learning by helping our students build capacity in a variety of areas. Our school is committed to ensuring that students are 21st Century learners and both these programs are key to this outcome.

Our NAPLAN results for 2015 have been released with students taking home their results in the very near future. I am pleased to announce that our results in all areas (reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy) are well above the average for comprehensive schools in NSW. The efforts of our literacy and numeracy teams along with our enrichment program and learning support program have contributed vastly to this achievement. No student is below the minimum standards for numeracy in Year 7 or Year 9 while our top students continue to see significant growth. Well done to Mr Robinson for his implementation of NAPLAN this year.

The conclusion of Term 3 is an exciting time as Year 12 reminiscences on their 13 years of education while stressfully preparing for what lies ahead. As stated in last week’s newsletter, we have high expectations of our student’s achievements and expect compliance with our rules. There are escalated consequences for students who decide to let their standards drop and our Year 12 cohort has been provided information regarding this. Despite this, I am very optimistic that this year group will finish their time at Menai High School with a positive lasting impression. I would also remind parents that there are many people in the school that students can turn to when they feel that they are in need of support.

K Scott

Parent Newsletter
Issue 25
Published Weekly
24th August , 2015
Week 7A

IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24/8</td>
<td>Year 7 Swim School (3 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26/8</td>
<td>Year 12 Major Work Showcase 4-6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 31/8</td>
<td>Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy &amp; Numeracy Week</td>
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<td>Thursday 3/9</td>
<td>NSWCHS Athletics (2 days)</td>
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<td>Monday 7/9</td>
<td>School Council Meeting; P&amp;C Meeting (changed date)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8/9</td>
<td>Year 6 into 7 Testing</td>
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website: www.menai-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
email: menai-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 9543-7000
Fax: 9543-5513
Welfare News!

Good News
Ms Lewry would like to acknowledge Year 11 Exploring Childhood Class, especially Tania Seras, Taneisha Pritchard, Sehel Mahmood, Kayla Nyberg and Rahmeli Ibrahim for outstanding effort in their Children and Play Unit Assessment task.

Mrs Kendrick and Miss Kelly would like to commend the Year 10 Textiles Technology students for their exceptional behaviour on their recent excursion - Lauren Constantine, Emilia DaneG, Emily Davenport, Olivia Holmwood, Rylee Jones, Olivia Lipowski, Georgia Luckman, Briana Margetics, Caitlin Sherwin, Victoria Soppitt, Alison White and Sarah Wilson.

Year 11 Leadership Team 2015
I would like to make a special mention of the Year 11 Leadership Team 2015, consisting of Zac Adamson, Cameron Burgess, Sarah Clark, Nicholas Diwell, Elizabeth Faust, Reece Holmwood, Lisa Johnston, Liam Johnston, Rachael Lee, Mikaela Luckman, Jordan Macbeth, Ethan Macky, Dale McGlynn, Joseph Messiter, Madeleine Norris, Megan Shipp, Alexandra Shute, Maya Stempien, Caitlin Tullis, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat and Alison Willett.

These students have approached their role in the team with enthusiasm and a commitment to enhance the inclusive environment at Menai High School. They have been a proactive group that has been a pleasure to work with this year. I wish the participants the best of luck in their captain's speeches and their quest to be part of the School leadership team for 2016.

Cyber Safety
Keeping children safe on the internet and ensuring that they are using the internet appropriately is one of the hard jobs facing schools and parents today. The increasing number of apps and websites that allow students to engage in social media is hard to monitor and track in terms of what students are accessing and whether the content is appropriate. There are several sites that give advice to parents on these issues such as ACMA (Australian Communications and Media Authority). Over the coming weeks we will be including as part of the newsletter information sheets from the DoE that can be found on the A-Z of Schooling site that focus specifically on the safe use of social media and the internet.

Y Mazoudier, Head Teacher Welfare

F1 in Schools Regional Competition
Menai High has once again been successful at the Sutherland Regional Competition for the F1S competition held at the Engadine Community Centre on Tuesday 18th August. This year we fielded two teams of Year 9 students -

Team NinonF1inity - Ashley Vrtovski, Lachlan Fairall, Nathan Alden, Daniel Holton and Dylan Hughes.
Team Momentum - Tegan Whitfield, Xavier Rolton, Patrick Kotsoris, Mason Shute and Mitchell Shipp.

Both teams deserve congratulations for the effort they put into the competition. Special congratulations go to Team Momentum who won Best Foil, Best Marketing, Best Verbal Presentation and were placed outright First in the Development Class at the competition.

Team Momentum now goes on to represent Menai High and the Sutherland Shire at the NSW State competition. This competition will be held on November 4th-6th at the University of Newcastle’s Callaghan Campus. All staff and students at Menai High wish the team all the best in their efforts at this level of the competition.

I Chalson

Wellbeing Wisdom
Cyberbullying
The statistics around cyberbullying are sketchy, mainly because it often goes unreported. What we do know is that the likelihood of children being bullied online or over the phone increases as they get older and use technology more frequently.

We also know that parents typically monitor their younger children's online activities more than they do tweens and teenagers. Unfortunately the age when kids are most likely to be cyberbullied coincides with when we’re least likely, as parents, to know about it.

Having published these and other interesting findings in a 2009 research report, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has created tips for parents to help keep their kids safe online and to give some direction for those who think their child may already be experiencing online bullying. Visit http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/cyberbullying/
say-no-to-cyberbullying to find out more.

R Hatiz and the Wellbeing Wisdom Team

Gifted & Talented Corner
Something a little different this week …

The Monty Hall Problem
Suppose you are a contestant on a game show in which you are to select one door to open for the chance to win a prize. There are 3 doors, behind which are two goats and a car.

You pick a door (call it door 1). You are hoping for the car of course. Monty Hall, the game show host, examines the other doors (2 & 3) and opens one of them with a goat (both doors might have goats; he'll randomly pick one to open).

He then gives you the choice - do you stick with door A (original guess) or switch to the other unopened door? Does it matter?

Solution in this section next week’.

A Hanna

CAPA Pie Fundraiser
Students and teachers who ordered pies can come and collect them from Ann’s Place this Tuesday, 25th August, from 3pm. Students please advise your teachers from the beginning of the lesson that you need to collect your pies.

Thanks you all for your support!

E Osborne

Senior Seminar Program Schedule— Week 7, Term 3, 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Period 3</td>
<td>English, Ancient History, Physics, Visual Art</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Period 3</td>
<td>Chemistry, English, Economics, Hospitality, IPT/SDD/ Business Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Period 3</td>
<td>Legal Studies, English, ESL</td>
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DoE School A to Z website

**Keeping Facebook private**

**At a glance**
- Google your child's name, then search for them on Facebook. See who has access to what information.
- Make sure your child sets their privacy options so only genuine friends can find them on Facebook.
- Having hundreds of Facebook friends isn't proof of popularity, just proof privacy is not being taken seriously.
- What goes on Facebook can become public and permanent – the good, the bad and the soul-destroyingly embarrassing. Future employers will probably search for your child's name on Google and Facebook.
- Emphasise to your child that they should never agree to meet with anyone they have "met" on Facebook (or any other internet-based social network), without a parent or responsible, trusted adult present.

When Louise Williams' teenage daughters were communicating with each other via Facebook recently, her son was watching from his flat several suburbs away. He thought it was hilarious, mainly because the girls live in the same house. Yes, their bedrooms are next to each other, Louise says.

"But, like many teenagers they bump into each other in cyberspace as often as in the living room."

Facebook is a powerful social networking space. But for many parents who grew up squabbling with their siblings over access to the family phone it's a new frontier.

Messages, comments, conversations and photos which were once exchanged personally are simply posted for many to see. Just how many depends on your child's Facebook privacy settings and the lengths they've gone to build up lists of cyber friends.

Facebook is mostly a positive tool for social interaction, says Dr Kirsty Young, a specialist in education and social media at the University of Technology, Sydney.

However, Facebook gradually exposed more and more personal information on its pages. As public search functions and third parties were able to reveal that information, there was global debate over privacy, the on-selling of personal information by web companies and the potential for cyberbullying or stalking on social media pages.

Some Facebook users even launched [Quit Facebook Day](http://www.quitfacebookday.com), commenting that "Facebook makes it damn difficult for the average user to understand or manage" their privacy settings.

After much bad press, in August 2011 Facebook made sharing and privacy options more visible, by introducing a dropdown menu on the Status and Wall pages. The best way to understand these new functions is to read the Facebook Blog entry "Making it easier to share with who you want."

**Five ways to help your child manage Facebook**

1. Start by signing up your own Facebook account, work out how to make a few friends and spend a couple of hours navigating your way around. In fact, why not start with the new School A to Z Facebook pages where you can tell us what information you need to help your child succeed at school.

2. Find the privacy settings in the drop down menu by clicking on 'Account' in the top right hand corner on the page. Facebook organises privacy settings into 'Everyone', 'Friends of friends', 'Friends only' and 'Customise', which can restrict access to an individual or small group.

3. Search for your child online yourself. You may find that their profile information including their name, photo, and a list of names and photos of all their friends can be accessed by anyone with a computer.

4. Then, ask your child to show you how their privacy settings are configured and find out whether they understand them.

5. Also ask them to show you how to block someone, how to refuse a friend request from a stranger and how to un-tag themselves from other people's photos; that is, take their searchable name off an image.

**Friends only**

The Australian internet advocacy group, [Electronic Frontiers Australia](http://www.eff.org.au) (EFA), recommends all Facebook users select 'Friends only' for all functions.

There are two other important settings if you want to maximise your child's privacy.

From 'Privacy Settings' choose 'Applications and websites' then go to 'Instant personalisation'. This is the controversial program which shares information with Microsoft, Pandora and Yelp, and it requires you or your child to opt out by clicking Edit settings and un-ticking the box. You can also go to 'Search' via 'Privacy Settings' and choose to disable the public search function in the same way.

**How young is too young?**

Children under 13 years old are not permitted to register for Facebook and accounts will be deleted if the company is notified of an underage user.

However, it's safe to assume there are many underage Facebookers, despite the median age of Facebook users being 26. Vice-chair of the EFA Geordie Guy says it's not an environment designed for younger children.

"As a parent you need to think about whether you would want younger children in this environment … think of it like a virtual party of young adults, and ask yourself if you would want an eight-year-old to go along," he says.

Another issue often overlooked is that Facebook is a business. Advertising is Facebook's revenue stream and if kids link to brands and businesses via Facebook they are joining commercially valuable consumer data.
See Change is a 6 session facilitated, small group program for families whose lives have been impacted by Drug and Alcohol Issues and/or Mental Health Issues.

See Change covers the following:

- Information on mental health issues, drug dependency and recovery
- The impact of these issues on families
- Understanding the process of change
- Strategies for reclaiming your life
- Tools for enhancing personal and family wellbeing

The Salvation Army has been working with families impacted by drug and alcohol issues for over 15 years and run a number of monthly support groups and education programs.

When: Wednesdays, 28 October—2 December 2015
Where: The Salvation Army, 23 Kiora Road, Miranda
Time: 1pm—3pm
Spaces limited, bookings essential — to reserve your place please phone 9540 4460.

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Break the Ice

Tuesday, 13th October, 2015

7pm @ Miranda Salvos
23 Kiora Road, Miranda

Come along to a free Community Information session on the illicit drug

‘ICE’
Crystal Methamphetamine

The following topics will be discussed:

- What is ICE?
- How ICE works
- How ICE affects the body
- Short term & long term harm
- Overdose signs & symptoms
- Treatment and support options
- Ice & Crime in our Community

Bookings are essential—phone 9540 4460 or email: rachael.lewis@aue.salvationarmy.org
ENGADINE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Family Fete
Fun Day

Saturday 29th August
9am to 3pm

Entertainment all day!
Stage performances

BBQ
Carnival Rides
Show Bags
Face Painting
and Much much more!

Class Stalls
Petting zoo
Henna Artist
Gozieme & ice cream

Trash n’ Treasure
Devonshire Tea
Show Bags
Book Stall
Como West Public School’s 10th

Big Day Out

Sat 29th August
10am-3pm

Carnival atmosphere!

- Arts and Crafts
- Amusement rides
- Market stalls
- 2nd-hand books
- Raffle
- Food
- Bottle toss
- Cake stall
  and lots more ...

Held in the school grounds,
corner of Wolgar & Taplan St

Free entry!

sanders
property agents