Acting Principal’s Message

I am starting my report this week with a letter from a parent that reinforces Menai High as a quality school rich in learning and growing opportunities for students. It highlights the role our teachers play in ensuring students have these amazing learning opportunities.

"I wanted to write and congratulate you on the quality of programs and staff at Menai High School. Our daughter is in Year 7 this year, and we have been very happy with the depth and breadth of educational opportunities she has had this year. There are a range of experiences that students are able to participate in beyond the normal purview of the ‘ordinary public comprehensive school’ and which also rely on the goodwill of the teachers to organise and supervise. I believe, for example, that my daughter’s opportunities to participate in Dance, Agriculture and in the Tournament of the Minds only enhances her education and results in a more well-rounded individual. These experiences could not happen without the willingness of teachers to give up their time before and after school and on weekends, and the teachers involved should be congratulated and publicly recognised for their efforts above and beyond their already full workloads. I have also been impressed with the number of quality excursions, including the camp.

The work of John Hattie suggests that among all the factors that influence student success, it is the individual teacher who makes the biggest difference. This makes the quality of teachers of the highest importance for students. I believe Menai High has a great deal of dedicated teachers and a school culture (shaped by the leadership) which encourages excellence. I am pleased that we chose Menai High for our daughter’s education."

Below is a snap shot of just some of the quality learning that happened lead by the dedicated at Menai high school last week. Year 12 Major works for HSC Industrial Technology, Visual Arts, Extension English, History and Society and Culture were showcased on Wednesday night. The students and teachers need to be congratulated on the outstanding work they have produced. This work is the final product, of many hours of hard work and inspiration by both the students and teachers. I must also recognise the family as a huge support for both the student and teachers throughout the process.

Congratulations to the following students who will be representing the Sydney East Region at the NSWCHS carnival on the 3rd September to 5th September Renee Mihaere, Blake McWhirter, Thomas Davenport and Maddison Boyle with. Good luck in your events. An outstanding effort to be selected in the regional team.

Our science students also need to be congratulated for the fantastic results they have achieved recently. The school’s first Tournament of Minds team competed last weekend and have qualified for the next level of competition. The team has been asked to compete for the Sydney South West Region. The competition last week was a combined event, Sydney East and Sydney South West. Menai High performed so well and came in just behind the first place team in the overall competition they have been asked to represent Sydney South West at the state competition. The congratulations continues for science. I have added the report from Mrs Hanna.

Today was the NSW State finals for the Science Teachers Association of NSW Paper Plane Flying Comp at the University of Sydney Open Day. Two of our Menai High finalists attended and competed against hundreds of students from around the state. Mitchell Irvine (Year 9) took out first place with a distance of 36m, winning $100 for his efforts. Cameron Gordon (also Year 9) won 2nd place with 33m winning a book prize. It was also the STANSW (Science Teachers Association of NSW) Young Scientist Awards Models and Inventions judging where Alex Burrell (Year 8) impressed the judges with his working model of a hydro turbine.

Rachel Waterworth (Year 12) placed in the best 6 for Year 10-12 for her model of an ecological vertical garden. Rachel’s entry will now be submitted into the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards - the nationals level of the competition! Menai High also won a USB digital microscope and a Q and A session with Dr Karl Kruszelnicki. A hugely fun and exciting day. Menai High seriously cleaned up. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage all parents of students who are now driving to continually talk to your child about the responsibility they must take on when driving. I have had a number of parents and teachers who have spoken to me about their concern of driving behaviours they have noticed. We all want our young people to remain safe and this is a real partnership between the child, parent and school to keep that road safety message at the front of your young drivers mind.

R Allen

Director of Public Schools - Woronora River Network Announcement

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to announce that Mr Bernard Ellevsen will be the new Principal at Menai High School pending the 10 day appeal period of the Merit Selection process.

Mr Ellevsen is currently the Deputy Principal at Keira High School and comes to this position with a highly-deserved reputation as a significant leader within and across schools.

Mr Ellevsen is a passionate, committed educator, dedicated to cohesive and vibrant school communities with a strong focus on student learning. Mr Ellevsen has also established strong partnerships for learning within and beyond the school building capacity and creating opportunities. Mr Ellevsen will provide strong and authentic leadership as the school moves forward at this time of educational change.

Thank you to the teacher and parent representative on the panel, Mr Craig Mundy and Mrs Robynne Challinor who were outstanding advocates for the school and brought significant insight to the process.

Mr Ellevsen is very excited to take up this position and will commence at the beginning of the 2016 school year. Mrs Allen will continue in the position of Acting Principal for the remainder of 2015.

Sue Cran
Director, Public Schools NSW, Woronora River Network

IMPORTANT DATES & COMING EVENTS

Monday 31/8 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Thursday 3/9 NSWCHS Athletics (2 days)
Monday 7/9 School Council Meeting; P&C Meeting
Tuesday 8/9 Year 6 into 7 Testing

Monday 15/9 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 22/9 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 29/9 National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 5/10 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 12/10 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 19/10 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 26/10 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 2/11 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 9/11 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 16/11 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 23/11 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 30/11 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 7/12 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 14/12 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 21/12 Year 10 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 4/1 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 11/1 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 18/1 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 25/1 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 1/2 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 8/2 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
 Monday 15/2 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 22/2 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 29/2 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 5/3 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 12/3 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 19/3 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 26/3 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 2/4 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 9/4 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
 Monday 16/4 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 23/4 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 30/4 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 7/5 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 14/5 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 21/5 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 28/5 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
 Monday 4/6 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 11/6 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 18/6 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 25/6 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 1/7 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 8/7 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
 Monday 15/7 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Monday 22/7 January 2016 Year 11 Exams begin (2 weeks); National Literacy & Numeracy Week
Deputy Principal’s Message

The Year 11 leadership team – Sarah Clark, Elizabeth Faust, Lisa Johnson, Rachel Lee, Mikaela Luckman, Madeleine Norris, Megan Shipp, Alexandra Shute, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, Alison Willetts, Zac Adamson, Cameron Burgess, Nicholas Diwell, Liam Johnston, Jordan Macbeth, Ethan Macky, Dale McGlynn and Joseph Messiter - delivered great speeches at the Week 6 assembly and I commend each student for their contributions and leadership of many important school events and initiatives at Menai High School in 2015.

Congratulations to the 2016 Menai High School Captains - Prudence Wilkins Wheat and Liam Johnston and Vice-Captains for 2016 Sarah Clark, Alexandra Shute, Nicholas Diwell and Dale McGlynn. I look forward to working with these students in 2016 and to the great leadership skills they will bring to Menai High School.

Road safety is a critical area where teachers, parents and the community must work together to ensure that students who are licenced follow all of the requirements by law and at school. At school, any licenced student driver is required to hand in a driver notification form. This is signed by the student and the student’s parent and guardian and is an acknowledgement that the licenced student driver is driving to and from school in a vehicle. The school also requires details about the vehicle which the student is using to travel each day. This allows us to keep a track of issues relating to student safety. Furthermore, any senior student who has followed the correct school procedures for driving to and from school must additionally ensure that they are not carrying any more than one passenger and that student must have provided the school with written consent from their parent or guardian. Any licenced student not following these strict guidelines will not be allowed to drive to school and will lose the privilege.

It is well researched that extra-curricular activities for your child, whether organised by parents or through a MHS school program provides essential and increased protective factors for optimum health and wellbeing. At the 2015 DP state conference youth wellbeing was a predominant theme for discussion and debate as over 400 Secondary Deputy Principal’s across the state contemplated innovative ways to continue to address and support their schools and students in the area of education and mental health.

MHS teachers are indeed world class. This week I pay tribute and acknowledge the outstanding work of Ms Hannon, Mr Lewis and Mr Newman who have worked tirelessly to organise extracurricular activities such as the Inaugural Space Camp, Tournament of the Minds and The annual Ski Trip. I was informed this week that MHS students won first place in the SWS division of the Tournament of the Minds competition. Congratulations to Connor Warhurst, Cameron Gordon, Natasha Pracy, Jordan Momircevski, Tushan Chandra, Alexandra Matruglio, Oliver Crowther-Miller, Matthew Chandler, Taegan Charles, Maddison Gattenby, Alexander MacRitchie, Aidan McLeod and James Forder and I look forward to acknowledging these students and their wonderful achievements on assembly this term.

I had the great privilege to see the outstanding major works of the year 12 students in the hall last Wednesday. The vast range of Timber, Visual Arts, Personal Interest Projects, extension English major tasks was extremely impressive. I thank Mr Luke Meagher and Mr Mitchell Kelly for these organisation and display of the Year 12 students’ major works. It is a strong reflection of the outstanding instruction and guidance provided to the students by their teachers and the support from parents to achieve such high level pieces of work. I look forward to the final results and wish each and every Year 12 student the best in their HSC.

Year 7 students are currently completing the Swimming School Program and have done a fantastic job in fully participating and working hard to develop and practise these important and critical skills for life. I thank Ms Hey and Mr Robinson for their promotion and organisation of the 2015 swim school program. I am always thrilled to hear good news stories such as a last week when a staff member from the Sutherland Learning Centre highly commended a student from Year 7 James Sestenovic for his wonderful demonstrated caring, considerate and empathetic citizenship skills. James showed great consideration for a member at the centre with special needs and assisted the member holding the door to enable them to pass through to the venue facilities.

James’ was acknowledged as a great person and a great student from MHS. At MHS we develop students to be skilled citizens and James is a student whom we are immensely proud of. Well done James.

I am also delighted to share with you an acknowledgement of our students sharing their refugee stories with Kurnell Primary school students last Wednesday. The students at Kurnell Primary school were a fantastic and group of students and I thank Ms J Graham, Principal Kurnell Clements and the staff at Kurnell Primary School for inviting us and allowing us to live and learn together in this great country of ours.

I am writing to thank you and your students for coming to talk to the students at our school. Teachers and students reported that this was a very valuable experience and opportunity to hear the personal journeys of the students. It was also a great opportunity to help develop knowledge and understanding within our students of what refugees and in particular some children go through in their lives. Thank you for bringing a wonderful life learning experience to the students at our school. We appreciate your efforts, caring and support.” Ms J Graham, Principal Kurnell Public School

I would like to share with you some of the outstanding work and advocacy of a student in Year 12 Abu Turay. Abu is studying Society and Culture and had the privilege to meet late Hon. Malcom Fraser to research Refugee issues and policy. Abu holds youth leadership positions in the community and continues to make great contributions to raising awareness and contributing to the plight of refugees all over the world. Below is a photo from a recent visit to Canberra. MHS students develop into skilled learners, skilled citizens and citizens who are skilled for Life.


Photo taken in Richard Marles office, Parliament House, Canberra

Year 11 commence their final preliminary exams this week and should be focussed on dedicating time and effort to study and consolidation. I wish each year 11 student the best outcome for their exams and remind them that application and consistent effort each day is what produces great results.

Finally, the MHS Homework centre is operating each Tuesday afternoon from 3.30 to 5pm. The homework centre is an important service offered by the school where your child can access support and resources to assist with the completion of assessment or homework tasks. Please encourage your child to utilise these services should they require it. I thank Ms Carroll, Ms Garden, Mr Proctor, Ms Summerfield and Shania Kahan (student) for their support of student learning and their care and commitment offered to the attendees of the MHS Homework Centre.

E Sayed-Rich
**Welfare News!**

**Good News**
Ms Ready would like to commend Tara Arduin, Katy Armson-Graham from Year 12, Chantelle Nolan, Madison Blackburn, Karli Stephens-Hodder and Emma Stephens-Hodder of Year 9 for their commitment to excellence.

Mrs Kendrick would like to congratulate the following students for their outstanding Multimedia Assessment Presentations in ICT, Annelise Faust, Christopher Poullos, Georgia Conner, Brodie Jones, Chloe Hicks, Madison Hammett and Alexandra Moutevelidis.

Well done Emily Davenport, Claudia Kabic, Caitlin Sherwin and Rylee Jones from Ms Kelly for consistent effort in undertaking practical tasks and project work.

Ms Bessell would like to acknowledge Natalie Corbett, Sarah Ettia, Duncan Irvine, Mohamad Al Eid, Jayde Ibels and Maya Kilic of Year 11 and Corey Beare and Samuel Patterson of Year 12 for being blood donors. They have saved 3 lives each.

**Cyber Safety**
We are continuing our articles on Cyber Safety and how you can help your children be safe on line. I hope you can take the time to have a read.

---

**Wellbeing Wisdom**

**Cyber Bullying**
It has been estimated that 1 in 3 children were cyberbullied in 2012 -2013 with that figure estimated to have risen since then. However many cases of cyberbullying go unreported not only for fear of embarrassment or humiliation, but because adolescents worry that their device may be confiscated if they do so. However, as parents and teachers we need to understand that complete bans on technology usage are unrealistic. Instead, if we take the time to talk with our children about appropriate online behaviour, develop their skills in articulating their feelings and nurture a strong sense of treating others in the way that we would like to be treated, then there will be more chance that cyberbullying will be identified and reported.


L Ferraro and the Wellbeing Wisdom Team

---

**Gifted & Talented Corner**
(cont’d from last week)

**The Mony Hall Problem - SOLUTION**
Although it seems counter-intuitive, swapping doors leads to better odds:

There is a 1/3 chance of the car being behind door number 1 and a 2/3 chance that the car isn’t behind door number 1. After Monty Hall opens door number 2 to reveal a goat, there’s still a 1/3 chance that the car is behind door number 1 and a 2/3 chance that the car isn’t behind door number 1. A 2/3 chance that the car isn’t behind door number 1 is a 2/3 chance that the car is behind door number 3.

Still not convinced? Imagine that instead of 3 doors, there are 100. All of them have goats except one, which has the car. You choose a door, say, door number 23. At this point, Monty Hall opens all of the other doors except one and gives you the offer to switch to the other door. Would you switch? There’s a 99% chance that the car isn’t behind the door that you picked. Monty has helped you by leaving one door for you to switch to, that has a 99% chance of having the car behind it. In other words, Monty has helped you by leaving one door for you to switch to, that has a 99% chance of having the car behind it. In this case, if you were to switch, you would have a 99% chance of winning the car. Works similarly with just 3 doors - only the odds aren’t quite as good!

---

**Student Statements of Account & Payment of School Fees**
Over the next few weeks we will be mailing out Student Statements of Account. We have been notified by many families that they did not receive a Statement earlier in the year and have found there are still some glitches in the new finance system. If you do not receive a Statement in this mail out and you believe you still have outstanding amounts could you please make contact with the school by phone on 9543 7000 or email menai-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au so we can investigate.

Also please note that you may have made payments for items that appear on the Statement of Account in the period between the day the letters are mailed out and you receiving them at home. You will need to delete these items from the total amount owing. Thank you for your cooperation.

J Partridge School Administration Manager
Keeping kids safe online

Here are eight easy ways to help your kids stay out of trouble in cyberspace.

At a glance
• Don't let your child post photos of themselves wearing their school uniform – it can be enough to identify your child's school.
• Ensure your child never organises to meet up with any strangers they have met online.
• Talk about what websites are appropriate with your child so they understand and make the right choice.
• By publishing without thinking, your child's innocent work online may be something that comes back later to haunt them.
• If your child starts being secretive about what they are doing online, check it out.

1. Keep computers out in the open
Your child may think twice about looking at inappropriate websites and won't be able to chat to their friends all night while you think they are doing their homework.

2. Mind your business
Remind your child to keep information such as their name, address, phone number, school and even your credit card number to themselves. When signing up to a chat room, they should use a screen name that is a nickname and not easy to work out. The same goes for choosing passwords – don't make them easy to figure out. If your child is going to put photos on the internet, ensure they don't show them wearing their school uniform – this can be enough to identify your child's school. Also ensure that any photos are not the type that would attract unwanted attention from strangers.

3. Just because it's on the internet, it doesn't mean it's true
Make sure your child uses multiple sources for research, and is careful not to plagiarise.

4. Stranger danger is online, too
Ensure your child never organises to meet up with any strangers they have met online. If they really want to meet up, encourage them to talk to you about it first and insist on going along with them. Remind your children to also be wary opening emails from strangers. They could contain spam (online junk mail), a virus (which will harm your computer), or be from a stranger looking for trouble.

5. Get a filter
Internet filters can help block inappropriate sites for children. None are completely reliable and it's best if you talk about what websites are appropriate with your child so they understand and make the right choice on their own.

6. Encourage your child to talk with you about their online experiences – good and bad
This will make it easier for them if they see something inappropriate or are emailed something unsuitable. If they are embarrassed to tell you, persuade them to at least tell a teacher or another trusted adult.

7. Good manners also exist online
Talk about this with your child and it may lead to a decline in bullying behaviour, not to mention the many disagreements that children have with each other.

8. Forever is a long time
A lot of blogs and websites maintain information as part of cyberspace forever. By publishing without thinking of the future, your child's innocent work online may be something that comes up later on and may negatively impact their career and personal life.

Danger signs
• Your child constantly sits on the computer in chat rooms or instant messaging, from straight after school to very late at night.
• Your child begins showing unexplained money or items that come from "a friend you don't know".
• Your child starts being secretive about what they are doing online – this could include anything from minimising screens as you walk past, to not letting you see their blogs/chat/social media sites.