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28 February 2014

From the Principal's Desk

Kia Ora

Yesterday morning I attended a meeting with representatives from most of Southland's sporting codes and the CEO of Sport NZ, Mr Peter McSkimming. While the discussion was generally positive and worthy praise was made of our nation's high performance athletes, I did feel that some concerns around sport were flicked back to what's happening in schools. I felt that sporting codes still feel that schools have an open door to them, but those days are well over. The Ministry have clear guidelines about their targets in order to raise student achievement and in three years as Principal, I am yet to read documentation on the targeted need to improve our sporting ability, nor find a large chunk of money in the operations grant to support it. There were also questions around Physical Education in schools. There is a clear difference between the two and today Physical Education at the senior end of school is a serious academic subject that involves numerous pieces of written work that would do little to lift the sporting capability of a nation.

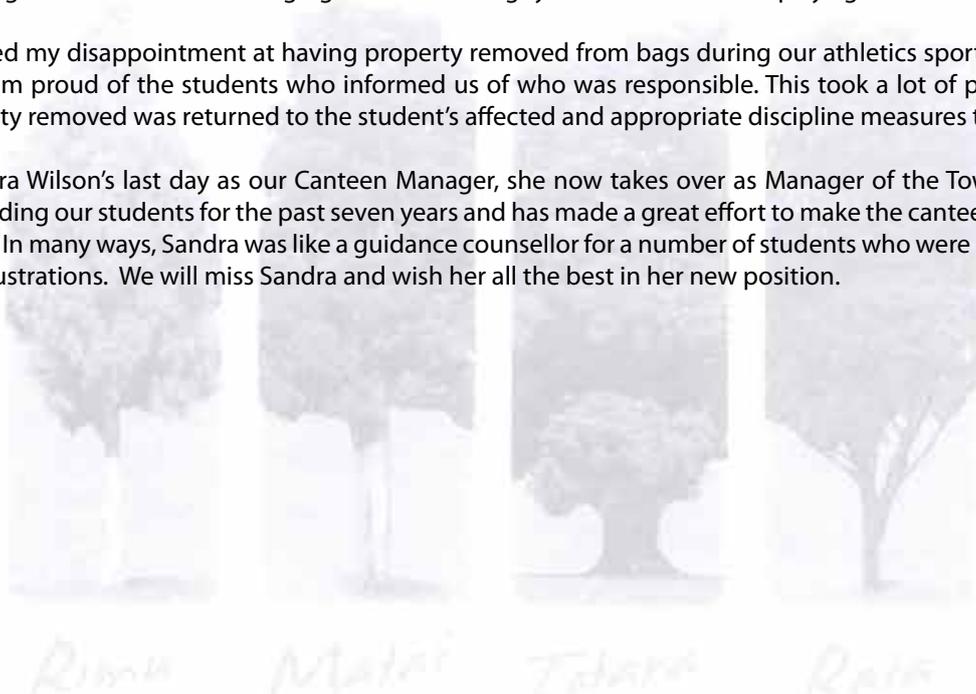
Sport is something we encourage as a school. It has a place in our curriculum and brings many benefits to the spirit and wellbeing of the school but it is not a taught subject, it is not compulsory or examinable. I listened to the different codes expressing their challenges and felt fortunate that this community are so supportive of sport, for what it is, while still placing the need of their child's learning and achievement at the top without compromising either.

Last evening we hosted a series of 7 A-side games against the group of 16 Chilean students who are at the Southland Boys' High School Rugby Academy. It was a good early season work out and quite different to play against a side communicating in Spanish throughout the matches. Some of these players were very impressive with their speed and stepping ability. At the end of July we will again host an English school who are bringing an Under 16 rugby and netball team to play against us.

Last week I expressed my disappointment at having property removed from bags during our athletics sports. Though still feeling grumpy about it, I am proud of the students who informed us of who was responsible. This took a lot of personal courage. As a result, all the property removed was returned to the student's affected and appropriate discipline measures taken.

Yesterday was Sandra Wilson's last day as our Canteen Manager, she now takes over as Manager of the Town and Country Club. Sandra has been feeding our students for the past seven years and has made a great effort to make the canteen run more efficiently with delicious food. In many ways, Sandra was like a guidance counsellor for a number of students who were keen to share with her their feelings and frustrations. We will miss Sandra and wish her all the best in her new position.

*Gerry Ward
Principal*



English Department

Level One English Assessment Dates

Assessment dates for AS90854 (Personal Response): ENG101 and ENG102

Response #1: Monday 10 March, period 2

Response #2: Monday 14 April, period 2

Response #3: Monday 26 May, period 2

Response #4: Monday 30 June, period 2

Response #5: Monday 11 August, period 2

Response #6: Monday 15 September, period 2 (final cut-off date for all submissions)

Assessment date for AS90852 (Connections): ENG102

Thursday 12 June, Term Two, Week Six

Assessment dates for AS90052 (Creative Writing): ENG101

1st portfolio submission – Thursday 27 March, Term One, Week Eight, period 5

2nd portfolio submission – Thursday 16 April, Term One, Week Eleven, period 5

3rd portfolio submission – Thursday 5 June, Term Two, Week Five, period 5

Final assessment – Thursday 26 June, Term Two, Week Eight, period 5

Assessment dates for AS90857 (Oral Text): ENG101 and ENG102

Thursday 7 August, Term Three, Week Three

ENG101 will be out of timetabled classes all day

ENG102 will have their assessment during periods 4 and 5, normal timetabled periods for ENG102

Assessment date for AS90855 (Visual text): ENG101

Thursday 18 September, Term Three, Week Nine, period 5

Assessment date for AS90855 (Visual text): ENG102

Thursday 25 September, Term Three, Week Ten, period 5

Assessment date for AS90053 (Formal Writing): ENG101 (an optional standard)

Thursday 30 October, Term Four, Week Three, period 5

Assessment date for US1273 (Story Writing): ENG102 (a discretionary standard)

Thursday 30 October, Term Four, Week Three, period 5

*Ms Sonja Swale
Head of Department - English*

Mathematics Department

For those students who require a calculator, we are able to supply them through the office. Graphics calculators are a good investment for students planning to study Maths at Level 2 and/or above. We are selling these for \$95 with only 5 available. Scientific calculators would benefit students from Year 9 onwards who are not planning on taking their maths as far as Year 12. We have limited numbers of these available for \$20. Please see the office staff to purchase these items.

Junior Mathematics Competition

This competition is organised by the University of Otago and is open to Year 9, 10 and 11 students. Last year around 7,700 students entered from 159 schools. The aim of the competition is to promote and encourage mathematics and problem solving. Competitors are required to solve problems in a practical context and they are given an hour to complete their solutions. If this sounds like you, please see Mr Wallace. Previous competition questions are available to use as a guide. The competition costs \$5 per entry (to the office) and students must be registered (with Mr Wallace) by Friday 7 March. The Mathematics Department strongly recommends involvement in this competition as it provides good exposure to practical problem solving and is designed to challenge students of all abilities.

*Brendon Wallace
Head of Department - Mathematics*

Careers

Dates for Liaison Visits

Canterbury University: Monday 3 March 9 am

Otago Polytechnic: Thursday 13 March 12.45 pm in the Library

Lincoln University: Tuesday 18 March 11.20 am

Southern Institute of Technology: Wednesday 26 March 2.30 pm

CPIT (Canterbury Polytechnic): Thursday 3 April 11.30 am - 12.15 pm

Year 12 and 13 students are asked to put their names on the 'signup' sheets outside Room 5 indicating which sessions they wish to attend. The Careers Suite beside the common room will be open on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes and Stuart Clark will be there to assist.

*Miss Katie Hall
Career Advisor*

Board of Trustees Report

On Thursday 20 February the Board of Trustees held its AGM. Mrs Carole Bee was elected to the position of Chairperson and Mrs Megan Lindsay to that of Vice Chairperson. Megan also agreed to continue in her role as financial officer and she will be assisted by Mr Nigel Scarth. Other roles such as discipline, property and health and safety will be decided at the next general board meeting. Mr Hugh Diack has agreed to remain on the board as an experienced hand and we are very grateful to him for giving up his time to help. Thank you again, Hugh!

Following the AGM the board held a general meeting and Mrs Carlyn Stewart attended to answer questions that the board had for the Wyndham District Pool Committee. This is a dedicated group of community representatives driving the move to get the swimming pool up to standard and running again by Term 4 this year. The Board are very supportive of their efforts and are currently investigating their legal standing, should the pool be run along the same lines that Edendale pool has been very successfully doing for many years.

It is timely to mention that Board of Trustees meetings are public meetings and that as such, you are welcome to attend any meeting. Members of the public do not have any speaking rights at the meeting however, unless they have been specifically invited to the meeting to do so by the Board Chairperson or with the leave of the board, at the meeting. Members of the public and also the press may be asked to clear the room from time to time if matters that are confidential are to be discussed, in committee.

The board also approved the dates for the camps that will occur during the year and we recognise the huge effort that staff make to give our students those experiences at most levels of the school. We thank Mrs Alice Cade and her team for all the work that goes into making these camps enjoyable and safe. The paperwork for camps is very comprehensive and the RAMs (Risk Assessment and Management plans) are very thorough.

Discussion was also held in response to a letter, on behalf of a group of parents, who wish a bus service that has been operating to Invercargill schools from Wyndham, be allowed to continue. The Board felt that we were impelled to act in a manner that promotes Menzies College to the best of our ability and so the request was denied.

Other matters discussed (in brief) included: investigating the cost and practicalities of running our own mini bus, increasing the number of elected board parent representatives by one to improve continuity and spread the work load, investigation of providing a safe wireless network for students to use their own 'smart' devices e.g. phones and tablets and the proposed remodel of the technical area.

Next General Meeting: Thursday 27 March 7pm in the Transition Room.

Mrs Carole Bee
Board Chairperson

Sports Notices

Southland Athletics

Friday 7 March at Surrey Park. All athletes who are eligible have been notified and should have entered in their chosen events by now. Permission slips will be out early next week.

Southland Primary Athletics

Saturday 22 March at Surrey Park.

Archery Club

This will be starting on Wednesday after school, weather permitting.

Tim Landreth
Teacher in Charge - Sport

ANZ Teen Ag - Young Farmer Contest

On 22 February Justin Boyd and myself went to Alexandra to the regional finals for the ANZ Young Farmer contest. We were competing in the Teen Division where we were placed third. We had to do a number of modules which included putting a bar on a chainsaw, assembling a petrol tank hose and gun, naming parts of a horse, doing a budget to raise 120 calves and much more. We qualified to compete in the 'spring off' race where the top seven teams go head to head while completing a series of tasks. Getting placed third overall means that Justin and I will travel to Lincoln for the Young Farmer grand final in July to compete with teens from all over the country. We would like to also congratulate Dean Rabbidge on winning the regional final. He now moves on to represent the Otago/Southland region in the grand final.



Jeffrey Robinson - Year 13

Outdoor Education Department

It has been an awesome start to the year with the Year 12 Adventure Experience class developing water confidence, learning how to safely perform rescues in a kayak and basic stroke technique. This has been based at the Edendale Community Pool and at Dyer's water hole. They have also shown they know how to have fun while participating in Adventure Based Learning activities.

Our Year 13 Adventure Leadership class has put their leadership skills to the test at Dunsdale Reserve, proving that communication is a key tool in reaching a common goal. They are now looking at what risks are involved in surfing and how we can eliminate them before taking part in their risk management surfing assessment in Riverton.

Please note that Year 12 Adventure Experience classes are held on a Thursday afternoon with Year 13 Adventure Leadership classes on a Tuesday. We will endeavour to have students back in time for buses but at times this isn't possible. Students will be given advanced notice of this and will require to be picked up from school. We are more than happy to drop students off if it is on our way.

Students have made contracts in class to identify what some challenges might be this year for them and how they will try to overcome them. It would be great if you could talk this through with your children and support them in their endeavours. Permission forms have been given to students which covers Tuesday and Thursday afternoon class time for the year. We ask that these be returned as soon as possible.

Course costs for outdoor classes this year are \$300 per student. It would be great if this was paid prior to Wanaka Camp at the end of Term 1. If you would like to set up an automatic payment please contact Judy Gould at the school office on 2064979.

Gear

It is really important that students are prepared for class to ensure the safety of themselves and others. The basic clothing needed for outdoor activities is: polypropylene top and bottom, woollen/polarfleece jumper, waterproof jacket with a hood, woollen/polypropylene beanie, suitable footwear for aquatics activities and tramping, sunscreen, sunhat. We have gear for loan within the outdoor department also if students need. If students require information, they can check out our Menzies College Outdoor Education facebook page where we continually have updates.

Term 1 Dates for your Diary

Year 12 Adventure Experience - Monday 14 to Thursday 17 April - Wanaka Camp

Year 13 Adventure Leadership

Tuesday 4 March - Risk Management Assessment, Riverton. Period 3 onwards

Tuesday 25 March - Risk Management Assessment, Riverton. Period 3 onwards

Monday 14 to Thursday 17 April - Wanaka Camp

If you require further information or have any queries around our outdoor programme, please don't hesitate to contact me at school on 2064979.

Mrs Alice Cade
Head of Department - Outdoor Education

School Camp Dates for 2014

Term 1

Friday 7th – Sunday 9th April – Paddles Up \$100

Monday 24th – Sunday 30th March – Year 7/8 Pounaweia Camp - \$110

Monday 14th – Thursday 17th April - Wanaka Camp – Part of course costs - Year 12 Adventure Experience and Year 13 Adventure Leadership

Term 2

Sunday 15th - Tuesday 17th June - Tautuku Pre-Camp – Part of course costs - Year 13 Adventure Leadership

Tuesday 24th – Friday 27th June – Year 9 Tautuku Camp – Approx \$130 - Year 9's and Year 13 Adventure Leadership

Term 3

Thursday 21st – Saturday 23rd August – Alpine Trip, Remarkables ski field – Part of course costs - Year 13 Adventure Leadership

Term 4

Tuesday 2nd – Friday 5th December – Year 10 Mavora Camp – Approx \$130 - Year 10's and Year 12 and 13 Outdoor Students

Camps and activities are accessible to all students. Each camp has a cost involved with it to cover transport, food, activities, gear, instructors, accommodation etc. Should you wish to set up an automatic payment please contact Judy at the school office.

We always appreciate the help we get from parents/caregivers to assist on school camps. If you are interested in assisting on a camp, please fill out the required forms when they are sent out with students prior to each camp. Any queries please contact Alice Cade – Head of Department, Outdoor Education at school on 2064979.

HPV Immunisation in Schools

A reminder there will be an education session for all parents/caregivers of Year 8 girls at Menzies College. This is being held on Monday 10 March at 2.30pm. It would be appreciated if the permission forms could be returned to the office as soon as possible.

For more information please view the following websites: www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation www.cervicalcancervaccine.govt.nz or watch 'The story of HPV' on YouTube to find out more about HPV and its prevention. Phone the HPV Team (03) 2146436, 0800 800 249 or text 0272491934.

Students Travelling on Different Buses

A note signed by a parent/caregiver is required if a student wants a ride on a bus that they would not normally travel on. The note is to be handed in to the office. Alternatively, phone Ritchies on (03) 2089902. If no notification is handed in to the office or contact made with Ritchies, students will not be allowed to travel on the bus.

Community Notices

Wyndham Athletic Club

For all those athletes considering representing Menzies College at the upcoming Southland Secondary School Championship in Invercargill on Friday 7 March, can I suggest that you consider coming along to the Wyndham Athletic Club and receive some training prior to this and other competitions. The club regularly meets every Tuesday from 6pm onwards at Menzies College. This Tuesday 4 March the Wyndham Athletic Club will be hosting an experienced and talented Throwing Coach to help further develop athletes in this area of athletics. Jane Muir, formerly Jane Arnott an ex Menzies student who still holds many current school athletic records and is herself an ex Commonwealth Sprinter, will be in attendance every week. If you would like to know more please feel free to contact Jane on (03) 206 6334.

Wyndham Netball Club

Registration day will be held at the Wyndham Primary School on Friday 7 March at 3.30pm. Children must be at least Year 3 to be able to play. If you are unable to attend and want to register as a player or a team to play in the Friday night competition, please phone Trudie Wilson on (03) 2064078 or 0221229915.

Menzies College Rugby

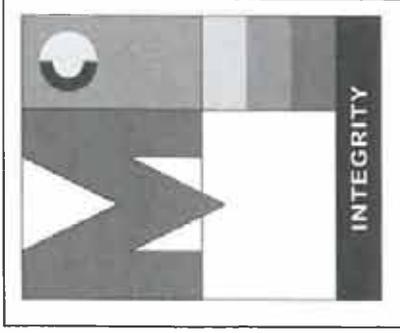
Registration day is after school on Tuesday 11 March at Menzies. Rugby gear can also be ordered at this time.

U14 Rugby

Fitness training for all intending players will be held on Monday 3 March at 3.30pm at the Raglan Street grounds. Everyone is welcome.

Important Dates

March	4	LMV Sports
	5	Year 12 First Aid 1.20-3.15pm
	7	Southland Athletics
	7-9	Paddles Up
	10	HPV Vaccination Information - 2.30pm
	11	Year 13 History trip to Arrowtown Defence Force Bus visit to school
	12	Year 12 First Aid
	13	Meet the teachers - for all parents/caregivers - all staff available in school hall at 3.30pm Otago Polytechnic visit - P4 Year 12 & 13 students
	18	Lincoln University visit - 11.30am
	24-27	8VW & 8KH camp at Pounaweia
	27-30	8BY & 8CL camp at Pounaweia
	26	SIT visit 2.30pm
	31	Literacy Week
April	1	HPV Vaccination - No. 1
	11	Shear Excellence
	14-17	Year 12 & 13 Outdoor Experience Wanaka Camp
	17	ANZAC Day ceremony Last day of Term 1
May	5	First day back Term 2



Writing Feature

As we know, writing is an important skill which needs to be constantly developed and refined. Menzies College staff have been undertaking significant professional development in regards to how to teach writing effectively for specific purposes.

To be able to teach effective writing skills, staff and students need to be aware of what is required in a 'good' piece of writing. To help with this, the asTTle (assessment tool for teaching and learning) programme of resources and exemplars is used across the school, in classes from Year 7-13. Six categories of writing can be explored through this process: Describe (a moment in time), Describe (a process), Explain, Persuade, Narrate and Recount. Currently, the school wide focus is on explanation writing.

In the school newsletter for Term One, a wide variety of student work with annotations (information on what the student has done in their writing) and the overall level of the work will be shown. We encourage you to challenge yourself to read this material and think about what improvements could be made.

If you have any questions about the material provided, or about your child and their writing, please do not hesitate to contact any of your child's teachers.

Explanation writing—A community facility.

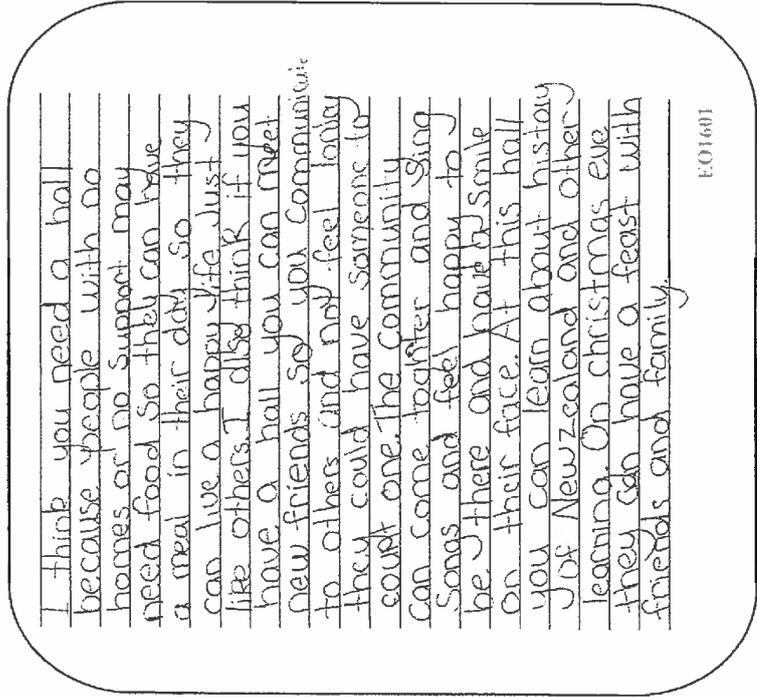
In this task, students were asked to think of a facility that their community needs. They had to write to explain to the reader why the facility is needed.

Important structural features for explanation writing include an orientation (introduction), body and ending (conclusion) with a closing statement. Specific language features include using present tense, verbs that express action, an objective tone and justifications.

The rubric category refers to the marking schedule used by staff to assess student work. This is a national marking schedule. The total rubric category score converts to an overall grade.

Overall, this piece of writing sits at 2A. This means that the student's writing is at the top end of Level 2 of the curriculum (Level 2 Advanced).

Compare this piece of writing with that of your child's. How do you think it compares? What improvements do you think need to be made?



ELEMENT	RUBRIC RANGE	RUBRIC CATEGORY	COMMENTS	EO1601
Ideas	R1–R6	R4	Ideas are relevant and begin to show some reference to wider world (e.g., community values, loneliness).	
Structure and language	R1–R6	R2	No introduction or conclusion. Body has some supporting examples. Some appropriate language features (e.g., words expressing logical relationships between ideas – <i>because, so, if, also</i>).	
Organisation	R1–R7	R3	There is some attempt to group ideas (e.g., making friends and bringing the community together). The text is coherent.	
Vocabulary	R1–R6	R3	Uses mostly everyday words and phrases (e.g., <i>someone to count on</i>), with a few precise words (<i>communicate, lonely</i>).	
Sentence structure	R1–R6	R3	Some sentences are correct, and these show variety in structure. Errors in sentences sometimes interfere with meaning (e.g., subject–verb agreement, noun–pronoun referencing).	
Punctuation	R1–R7	R4	Low R4. Most sentences are punctuated correctly (full stops and capital letters). Correct use of capital letters to indicate a proper noun (New Zealand).	
Spelling	R1–R6	R4	Spells a wide range of high-frequency words correctly, including <i>there/their</i> . Spells one or two more difficult words correctly (e.g., <i>communicate</i>).	

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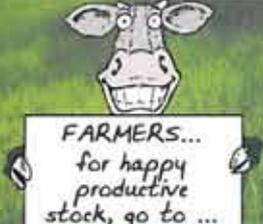


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