



MENZIES COLLEGE

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21 March 2014

From the Principal's Desk

Kia Ora

Each year the Board of Trustees has to present to the Ministry, our school's charter. In a nutshell, this is our plan for the next few years with regards to best teaching and learning opportunities, along with how we intend to best resource the school. This year we have looked to move forward some of last year's priorities as we move in to a second phase on a number of them. Described below are three of the five strategic priorities (SP), these are the ones specific to improving learning outcomes for all students and below each I have provided a brief descriptor of where we are at with these.

SP. 1 Continue to grow the development of our Professional Learning Community

A focus on Teaching as Inquiry and our Appraisal System for a second year remains the priority.

This is a follow on from last year where staff focused on their practise in the classroom, reviewing what makes a difference to student learning and working towards best practice.

SP. 2 Track the academic achievement of all learners, in particular, identified priority learners. Improve the quality of NCEA exam results and course endorsements for 2014. Target achieving a minimum of 75% passing both NCEA level 1 and 2 annually, based on participation.

Priority learners are those battling to achieve and in need of additional support to get them across the line. The Ministry have them as a focus currently and want staff doing more to close the gaps on who is achieving in our schools. Our students value quality in their NCEA results and this push saw many more endorsements than in previous years. Our focus is a continuation of this with even more students doing better and students staying in school until they have achieved a minimum qualification of NCEA Level Two.

SP. 3 Develop a rich curriculum for all Year 7 to 10 students in response to their strengths, interests and learning needs, incorporating agreed upon 'Thinking Strategies', 'Personal Learning Goals and Shared Learning Logs'.

Following the guidelines of the Best Evidence Synthesis Iteration, we want to strengthen the dialogue between staff and students that is specific to their learning needs. Two way communication about their learning is recorded and reviewed regularly. Each department is expected to adopt 'Thinking Strategies' that will require students to consider their understandings in more depth and to extend their boundaries around possible answers.

Earlier this week we appointed Rachel Durry to the position of Canteen Manager, with Ann Grieve as her Assistant. The canteen has historically struggled to break even but so far this year, weekly takings have been encouraging and with the continual support that has been forthcoming, early financial indicators are promising. We now have eftpos available in the canteen for students and a lot more variety on the menu. Every effort is made to keep prices affordable to students and this renewed support has been most welcomed.

Next week our Year 7 and 8 students will make their way down to Pounaweia for their biannual camp at this venue. We wish them all the best on this excursion along with the parents/caregivers and staff attending. I realise that many school activities, on top of the expense of playing sport for the school, can stretch the family finances. An increasing number of families have now arranged automatic weekly or fortnightly payments to cover student school expenses and these have worked out well for both parties. See Judy in the office if you would like to make an arrangement of this nature. Furthermore, family finances should not be a barrier to students participating in school academic or extra-curricular activities and in some instances we are able to offer assistance to offset some costs. Please contact the school if you need to discuss financial support.

*Gerry Ward
Principal*

Careers

Dates for Liaison Visits

Southern Institute of Technology: Wednesday 26 March 2.30pm

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

Otago University: Tuesday 27 May 1pm

* Year 12 and 13 students need to write their name on the 'signup' sheets outside Room 5 indicating the speakers they want to listen to. Thank you to the students who have done this. It is advised that the students write dates in their diaries or set alarms on their cell phones to remind them of their appointments. It is courtesy to let your teachers know in advance that you will be out of class.

The careers room will be open at lunch times every Tuesday and Thursday if you would like to carry out career research or seek some guidance. Mr Clark will be available to assist you. Please take advantage of this.

Please check out the school Careers Page at <https://www.facebook.com/menziescollegecareers> for updates on University Liaison visits, Scholarships, STAR Courses, Work Experience, Gateway and Hokonui Tertiary High School.

*Miss Katie Hall
Careers Advisor*

Special Needs Department

Easter Raffle

Don't forget to buy one of our Easter raffle tickets. These are available at the Menzies College office and our Special Needs students will also be out in the community selling them. Tickets cost \$1. We do appreciate the support we receive from the community. The draw will take place on Tuesday 15 April.



Duke of Edinburgh

James Golden, Tessa Docherty and Hannah Schipper have been working hard on their biking fitness in preparation for their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Practice Camp. The students plan to bike from Walter Peak to Mt Nicholas and from Arrowtown to Queenstown via Lake Hayes at the end of the month.

*Mrs Toni Halliday
Teacher in Charge - Special Needs*

L to R: James Golden, Hannah Docherty & Hannah Schipper

Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC)

Blanket Consent Form

Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) is the name given to all events/activities that occur outside the classroom, both on and off the school site. This includes sport.

- Our school believes in using a range of environments and experiences to enhance our students' learning.
 - We have ready access to various speciality learning environments in our community and a variety of natural environments.
- Our students need to learn how to be safe in different environments.

Our school also values the concept of providing students with a range of opportunities. Thus, some of the learning for students occurs beyond the school site and this document is seeking your consent for your child/ren to participate in such learning. Activities covered by this are on the school grounds and also off-site short visits in the local community within school hours (horticulture, adventure based learning, measuring in maths, museum, art gallery, sports events, cross-country training). All EOTC activity categories require the principal and staff to undertake an analysis of the risks, and identify the management strategies required to eliminate, isolate and minimise the risks. Extensive emergency procedures are also in place. Please complete the blanket consent form which was inserted in last week's newsletter and return to the school office. If the form has been misplaced, please ask your child to get another one from the office.

If you have any queries please contact Alice Cade, EOTC Co-ordinator on (03) 2064979 or alice.cade@menzies.school.nz
Important: For safety reasons, students will not be able to participate in events covered by this blanket consent form if it is not completed and returned to the school office.

Community Notices

Eastern Southland Hockey - Small Sticks Hockey 2014

Open Day Friday 11 April from 3.30pm till 4.30pm. Season starts Friday 9 May. Coaching the coaches' day to be held on Tuesday 6 May from 3.30pm till 4.30pm. This will be run by Brenda Hope and Vince Aynsley. All games and practice happen on the Friday night for yr 0 to yr 6. A coach is required for each team so if you are able to help please let us know at open day. Assistance and weekly coaching plans are given to all coaches. All enquiries to Vince Aynsley vinceandbella@gmail.com Ph 208 1275 021 404 556.

Edendale Netball Club

Final Trial and Registration is on Sunday 23 March from 2pm. All grades. If unable to attend, please contact Belinda on 2066404.

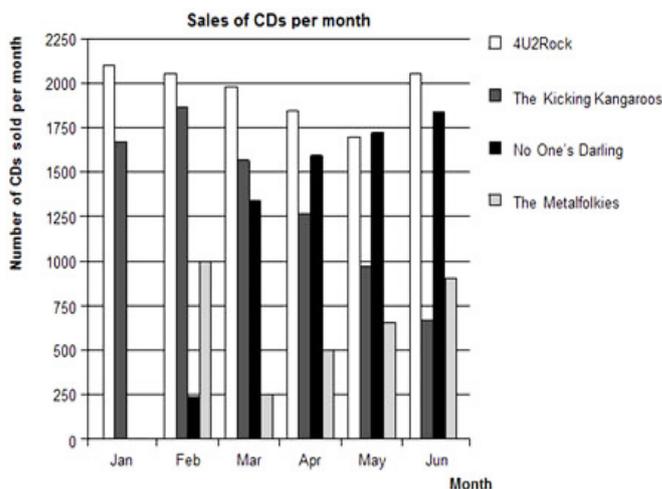
Mathematics Department

Last week we included a 'Level One' sample question administered by PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment). PISA is funded by the OECD and assesses the skills and knowledge of fifteen year old students from OECD countries. Mathematics is the focus every 3 years with Science and Reading being the focus of the other 2 years. The 2012 report shows that New Zealand ranks around 20th overall for Mathematics, with a mean score just above the OECD mean.

At 'Level One', we rank 7th equal, with 93% success. So if you got the correct answer (see below), you are at least at the same level as 93% of our fifteen year olds! Try the sample question below, which is from "Level 2" of the assessment.

Question 1 (Level One from last week):

In January, the new CDs of the bands 4U2Rock and The Kicking Kangaroos were released. In February, the CDs of the bands No One's Darling and The Metalfolkies followed. The following graph shows the sales of the bands' CDs from January to June.



In which month did the band No One's Darling sell more CDs than the band The Kicking Kangaroos for the first time?

- A. No Month
- B. March
- C. April
- D. May

Correct Answer is C - April

Question 2 (Level 2):

Helen has just got a new bike. It has a speedometer which sits on the handlebar. The speedometer can tell Helen the distance she travels and her average speed for a trip. On one trip, Helen rode 4 km in the first 10 minutes and then 2 km in the next 5 minutes. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- A. Her average speed was greater in the first 10 minutes than the next 5 minutes.
- B. Her average speed was the same in the first 10 minutes and in the next 5 minutes.
- C. Her average speed was less in the first 10 minutes than the next 5 minutes.
- D. It is not possible to tell anything about her average speed from the information given.



Brendon Wallace
Head of Department - Mathematics

Science Department

Year 12 Biology Trip

On Tuesday, 4 March the Year 12 Biology class went to Daffodil Bay to study mud snails and the Invercargill Museum to learn about the Tuatara. We set out to Daffodil Bay to get information about mud snails - their size and how far they were spread out. The data collected will go towards a practical achievement standard worth 4 credits. We also had a lot of fun and a few laughs doing this as Lexi, Caitlin, Tyler, Holly and Stephanie all got stuck in the mud. After this we went to McDonalds for lunch then on to the Museum to gather information about Tuataras for an achievement standard which was very interesting and we learnt a lot. Lindsay Hazley is very enthusiastic about his job. Lilly was lucky enough to be allowed to hold the Tuatara even though she was a bit nervous. All round, it was a good day and we learnt a lot of new things.



Courtney Poole - Year 12

L to R: Lexi Smith, Baylee Egerton & Holly Smith 'stuck' in the mud

L to R: Shinea Braithwaite, Lilly McKenzie, Lexi Smith & Megan Ward

English Department

Level One English Assessment Dates

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

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*

Paid Union Meeting

We have just received notification that the school will close at 12.20pm on Monday 7 April (buses running at 3.15pm) to enable staff to attend a paid union meeting.

Important Dates

March	24-27	8VW & 8KH camp at Pounaweia
	27-30	8BY & 8CL camp at Pounaweia
	27	Board of Trustees meeting 7pm in Transition Room
	26	SIT visit 2.30pm
	28	Mufti Day - 'Go Spotty' - fundraising for Melanoma Foundation - gold coin donation
April	31	Literacy Week
	1	HPV Vaccination - No. 1
	7	Paid Union Meeting - school closes at 12.20pm (buses running at 3.15pm)
	11	Shear Excellence
	14-17	Year 12 & 13 Outdoor Experience Wanaka Camp
	17	ANZAC Day ceremony
May		Last day of Term 1
	5	First day back Term 2

Menzies College Netball

The first meeting for the year will now be held on Tuesday 25 March at 6pm in the school staffroom. I apologise for any inconvenience caused by the postponement of the previous meeting.

Selection

The teams have been split into two squads - A & B Squad and Year 9 & 10 Squad. There will be a trial for the A & B Squad on Wednesday 19 March at 4.45pm and another trial for the Year 9 & 10 Squad on Wednesday 19 March at 3.30pm.

*Kath Luoni
Teacher in Charge - Netball*

Menzies College Rugby

Subs for 2014

Year 7 & 8, U14, U16 - \$30 (if not paid by 31 May, increases to \$45)

First XV - \$150 (if not paid by 31 May, increases to \$175) this includes jersey and socks

Money for subs and gear (may be paid together) is to be paid to Lois Heads, left at the school office, given to the team manager or paid by internet banking to account No. 03 0962 0066078 000 with your name as a reference. Please get your gear orders to Lois Heads as soon as possible.

'You Make the Call' - Rugby Referee Course

A course is being held during the school holidays on Wednesday 30 April and Thursday 1 May, and Tuesday 8 July (to sign off the NCEA credits) at Rugby Park Stadium, Invercargill. There is no costs to the participants. It is recommended that the age of students be no less than 14 years. Both male and female students are eligible for this course. For further information and nomination forms please contact Guy Michaels on (03) 2064206.

Billets

We have the opportunity for a family to host a Tongan boy. If anyone is interested please contact Peter Bee on (03) 2064863 for further information.

Practices

These are now underway. Anyone still interested in playing, feel free to get in touch with us and you will be pointed in the right direction.

*Guy Michaels
Rugby Committee*

Sports Notices

Otago/Southland Secondary Schools Athletics

Well done to all our athletes who competed. A special mention to Jordan Stuart who qualified 4th in the U16 800m to go through to the South Island Athletics Championships.

Southland Primary School Athletics

We have 25 students attending the athletics meet on Saturday at Surrey Park, Invercargill. All the best to our athletes and many thanks to our staff who are helping out on Long Jump duty.

*Tim Landreth
Sports Co-ordinator*

Skiing/Snowboarding Trips

This year we will again be running skiing trips in the weekends. This usually happens on a Sunday and we will run 3-4 trips, depending on interest from students. Students of all ages and abilities are welcome. The approximate cost of each day is \$100. This includes transport, day pass, lesson, gear hireage (not including clothing). Check out the NZ ski website for details on early bird season passes and other exciting events coming up this season. Skiing will commence in Term 3.

*Brendon Wallace/Alice Cade
Teachers in Charge - Skiing*

Touch Southland - Junior Trials for Representative Squads

Touch Southland welcomes all boys and girls to trials for the chance to represent their province in Touch. All information and times for each age group is as follows: Date: 6 April 2014; Venue: Turnbull Thompson Park, Invercargill; Time: U11 Boys and Girls - 9:30am, U12 & U13 Boys & Girls - 10.30am, U14, U15 & U17 Boys & Girls - 11:30am. For any further questions please contact the office on (03) 2112255 or email info@touchsouthland.co.nz. Please ensure that you have your child there 30 minutes before their correct age group trial. All children trialling MUST report to the clubrooms before trials and fill in some paper work. It would be much appreciated if parents/caregivers could assist with this as we need it to be clear for admin staff to read.

Reporting Times:

- U11 - 9am
- U12 & U13 - 10am
- U14, U15 & U17 - 11am

*Mark Kerslake
Teacher in Charge - Touch*

Volleyball

We had another great week of Volleyball at the new Stadium Southland in Invercargill. The juniors had some very close games being pipped at the finish line by one or two points. Player of the game went to Ahliyah Paderanga in the first game for outstanding 'digging' and the second game went to Allynah Paderanga for 'killer serving'. The seniors took both teams they played to 3 sets and had some great rallies, unfortunately, going down by two or three points as well. Outstanding players were Courtney Poole for great net play and Tai Tearii Tauu for terrifying the other teams with his serving. Thank you to Toni Halliday for driving the students to Invercargill and back in the van. The next games will be on 2 April and this will be the final round.

*Katie Hall
Teacher in Charge - Volleyball*

Explanation writing—Good friends

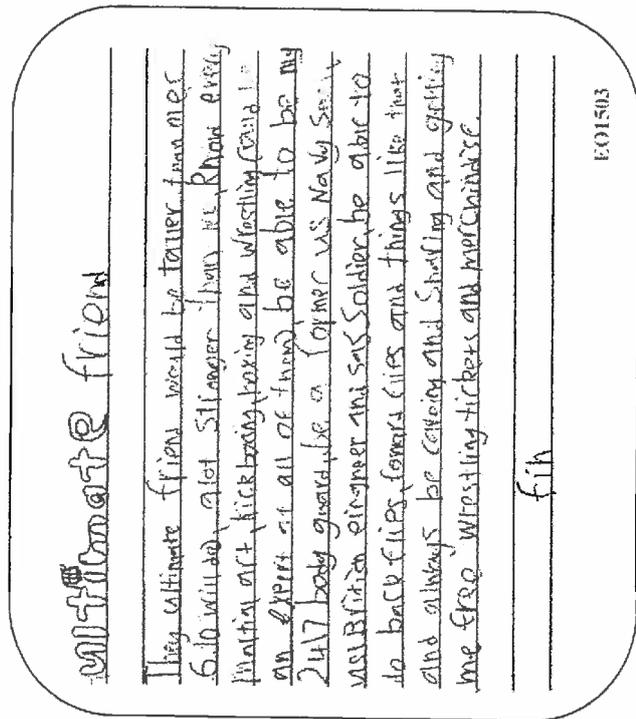
In this task, students were asked to think about friendship. They had to write to explain to the reader what being a good friend means.

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 3B. This means that the student's writing is at the beginning of Level 3 of the curriculum (Level 3 Beginning). From looking at each individual element of the writing, it is clear that this student needs to focus on improving their use of the appropriate structure for explanation writing and the organisation of their ideas.

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	EO1503
Ideas	R1–R6	R4	One idea is elaborated. Text begins to show some complexity through references to the wider world (e.g., <i>US Navy Seal</i>) and values (<i>caring and sharing</i>).	
Structure and language	R1–R6	R2	Body contains examples and information to support main idea. No introduction or conclusion. Language features are more appropriate for the purpose to <i>describe</i> than for the purpose to <i>explain</i> .	
Organisation	R1–R7	R3	Text is brief but coherent, and ideas flow.	
Vocabulary	R1–R6	R4	Some precise, technical and subject-specific words are used (<i>merchandise, ultimate, backflip</i>). Vocabulary goes beyond simple and everyday words.	
Sentence structure	R1–R6	R3	Text consists of one sentence which has multiple, list-like phrases. Linking of phrases within the sentence is effective and enables the reader to follow meaning.	
Punctuation	R1–R7	R5	Sentence punctuation is correct. Other correct use includes parentheses, commas for lists and capital letters for proper nouns.	
Spelling	R1–R6	R5	Most high-frequency and some difficult words are spelt correctly (difficult words include <i>guard, wrestling, martial, ultimate</i>). Errors in <i>eingneer, merchindise and careing</i> .	

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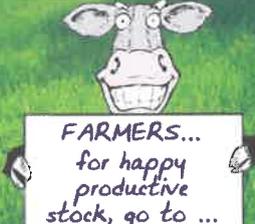
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