As we make our way towards the end of our first year as a stand-alone school parents and students might assume that the school winds down during Term 4. In reality nothing could be further from the truth. Term 4 is one of the busiest terms of the year for any school. By the end of this week we will have 5 weeks left until our whole school program will change and students will be moved into entirely new classes in a new timetable. Reports are being written and new curriculum developed for courses that we never offered before.

I am very pleased to report that progress towards the completion of our various National School Pride (NSP) and National Secondary School Computer Fund (NSSCF) projects is proceeding well. Students (and teachers) have readily taken up use of the new tables and seats provided around the school and the class sets of Quizdom remotes are being used by more and more classes. The installation of interactive whiteboards in almost all of our rooms is now complete. Teachers have been participating, and will continue to participate, in professional learning activities designed to allow them to make the most of these new resources. Three new COWs have arrived (we almost have a herd now) and we are hopeful that our notebook supplier (Lenovo) will be able to supply the 75 computers shortly. Some additional works on less exciting issues such as ensuring the efficient drainage of storm water around the school is also currently being completed. I would like to especially thank Mark Humphries (our network administrator) and Josh Blanchard (our school gardener and maintenance person) for the extra work that they have undertaken as part of both the NSP and NSSCF programs.

I am happy to announce that Somerville Secondary College will also be receiving additional funding for 2010 to support the implementation of a whole of school literacy program. As we strive to improve the learning outcomes across all learning areas for all of our students, improving literacy skills is an absolutely essential foundation.

I hope that every parent and student got to see the four page feature in the local Leader newspaper last week. The feature was the culmination of work completed by thirty students under the excellent direction and mentorship of our Head of English - Mrs Valerie Potter. It was fantastic to read the articles our students wrote about their school and why they feel it is a great school. If you did not see the feature – please find a copy and take the time to read the articles written by some of our very best students. I am sure you will be as proud of our students’ work as we are.

We are currently finalizing arrangements for our first Awards Presentation Night for Melbourne Cup Day at the Mechanics Institute Hall in Somerville. Under the excellent direction of Mrs Dolores Marie-Jeanne I am sure this will be a great celebration of our student’s efforts. Please keep this date free in your diary.

BUY, SELL or HAND-ON second-hand school items and extend recycling efforts far beyond textbooks & uniforms whilst assisting other students and schools. Save time & save money.
The 2009 Inter School Sports program has experienced high levels of participation and success this year! More specifically, over 96% of SSC students have participated in the program. In addition to whole-school activities including Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming, over 60 teams in 16 different sports competed at the PSSSA District level.

Congratulations to the following students who qualified at PSSSA Districts Athletics on Thursday, September 3rd at Ballam Park and advanced to the Southern Zone Athletic Finals held on October 8th at Knox Athletics Track: Allan Diggines, Jay Forrest, David Mataitoga and Donna Ashdown-Williams

On Friday, August 28th, SSC Year 7 Boys Hockey team captured the PSSSA District Flag and advanced to the Southern Zone Preliminary Finals. On Wednesday November 4th, the Year 7 Boys Hockey team will compete in Southern Zone Finals at Mentone Playing Fields in Keysborough. The first game will be Somerville Secondary College v. Mt. Erin Secondary College.

Ms. Evans has begun preparation for the 2010 Inter School Sports Program including organising all sport dates and preparing for the student sport sign-up process. Currently, Ms. Evans and I are accepting nominations for the 2010 Inter School Sport Student Leadership roles – nominations close on Friday, October 30th at 3:00 p.m.

I would like express my deep appreciation to all staff who have volunteered to coach a sport team this past year. Commitment from staff, support from parents and community members and professionalism among our students have resulted in establishing an extremely vibrant Inter School Sports program!

Joe Wilson

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**Programs & Initiatives**

**“Spring Car Boot Sale!”**

Date: Sunday 22nd November  
Time: 9am to 2pm

Cost: $15 per car space

Book a spot or two by ringing Sue Curran on 59-731087  
or by email—scurran@somervillesc.vic.edu.au

So save your rubbish and convert it to cash!

Sausage Sizzle snags, tea and coffee will be on sale.

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**Bluescope Steel Donation**

A big thank you Bluescope Steel for their donation of scientific glassware to our College. Beakers and jars of tempered glass are among the first items to need replacing in a school lab. This gift has saved the Science Department from using up it’s budget on this type of equipment.

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**Ritchies Community Benefits Cards**

The College has a number of pre-registered cards for all your family members.  
Any Ritchies store will honour the card, so your relatives don’t even have to live close to you! Just ask at the front office.

Somerville Secondary College receives about $50 a month from the cards and we would love to see that amount increase!

Ritchies Somerville has undergone a total facelift! Have a look at the brand new store and while you are there, give your Community Benefit Card a swipe with 1% going to your College.