

## Principal's Report—November 17th, 2009

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Students and some parents will have noticed some of the changes occurring around the outside of the school. There are now twelve “table & seats” installed around Buildings 3 and 5 for student use during breaks. I have also noticed a number of staff making use of these facilities as an “outdoor” classroom space. The poles for the shade sails over the Teenrager equipment are currently being powder coated and installation of the sails should take place later this year. With the installation of shade sails we have almost finished our National School Pride projects with only the fencing around some of the garden beds remaining.

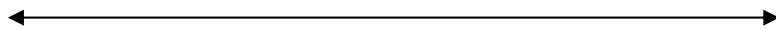
Students and staff will be aware that I have been “talking up” the arrival of the new Computers On Wheels for some time now. I am pleased to report that we expect the delivery of the Lenovo notebooks this Friday after considerable harassment of the Lenovo representative by our Network Administrator Mr. Humphries. I expect that the new COWs will be appearing in classrooms during our Early Start program in December.

The school council is currently considering some changes to the uniform policy for 2010. I feel that I can confidently let parents know that we will be more prescriptive regarding the footwear that students are allowed to wear beginning 2010. There are a number of students who are wearing shoes that offer virtually no protection but comply fully with the “black shoe” stipulated in the current policy. “Black leather school shoe” is likely to be the description that will appear in the updated uniform policy. With this in mind I would like to suggest that parents – when buying new shoes for their son or daughter – only consider a black lace or buckle school shoes and ignore any suggestions from their children that anything else will be acceptable to the school.

Our Year 10 students will be completing final examinations in English and Mathematics on November 20<sup>th</sup> and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them well as they move onto other schools for a variety of “early start” programs. We are suitably proud of our Year 10 students and their accomplishments over the last four years and we will miss them as they move onto the final two years of their secondary education. This group of students has been with the school since it opened in 2006 – the pioneers of secondary education in Somerville.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that all students in Years 7 – 9 will be starting the “Early Start” program on December 7<sup>th</sup>. An entirely new timetable is currently being constructed and students will be rolled over into Years 8 – 10 programs beginning 07/12/2009. The final two weeks of the year will be the beginning of their 2010 educational program and it is absolutely essential that **students are in attendance** for this program.

*Chris Lloyd*



Well done to Nicholas Wall & Mitch Wilson for winning a spot in the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards held last Friday (13th). They got to hang out with lots of celebrities and participate in a tug of war with Joel & Benji Madden from 'Good Charlotte'. Both students and their families will also enjoy a wonderful holiday to Hamilton Island next month!



### Dates to Remember



#### 18th November

*Info night for 2010*

#### 20th November

*Year 10 Exams*

#### 25th November

*Year 7—2010*

*“Getting to know you”*

#### 26th November

*Info night SOCA & Cyber bullying*

#### 27th November

*Last day for Year 10*

**The ‘Spring Car Boot Sale’ advertised in our last Newsletter has been postponed until March 2010. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause..**



### Introduction of the Victorian Student Number

Our school is working with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to allocate a Victorian Student Number (VSN) to each student at the school.

The VSN is a student identification number that is being assigned to all students in government and non-government schools, and students in Vocational Education and Training Institutions. The number, which is unique to each student, will be used as a key identifier on a student's school records, and will remain with the student throughout his or her education, until reaching the age of 25. The VSN is nine digits long, randomly assigned, and tied to stable information about the student (name, gender, date of birth). For this reason you will need to provide the school with **a copy of the student's birth certificate**.

The introduction of the Victorian Student Number will provide the capability to accurately detect patterns of student movement through, and departure from, the Victorian education and training system. It will greatly improve the collection and analysis of timely and accurate data about education in Victoria. The Department collects information to track improvements made to the education system, identify areas that require further improvement, and to analyse trends and identify future needs. The VSN will improve the accuracy, reliability and completeness of this information, providing a better basis for assessing needs and developing policies to meet them.

You will see the VSN appear on student report cards, enrolment confirmations, and exit confirmations.

If you want to know more about the VSN please see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/vsn/overview.htm>

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### So what is a LOCKDOWN?

During the fire danger period the risk to schools and to school groups of exposure to wildfire may be high. Schools are required to ensure that in planning for all school activities, consideration is given to the potential risk to personal safety from fire. Schools are prepared to cancel or postpone activities on days of total fire ban or other days when the risk of fire is high such as code red days. Should a wildfire occur the College might be required to go into a '**Lockdown**' when staff and students must remain inside due to a threat outside the building. The aim of a lockdown is to optimise staff and student safety until the danger has passed.

All parents and carers need to be aware that when the College is in Lockdown mode no students can be "released" from the lockdown should a parent turn up to collect them. So if you receive information that Somerville is under threat please DO NOT jump in the car to come and collect your children. This will only add to the chaos, cause traffic congestion and impede emergency vehicles. Your children are quite likely safer with us than they would be at home or in a vehicle being driven near or through a fire.

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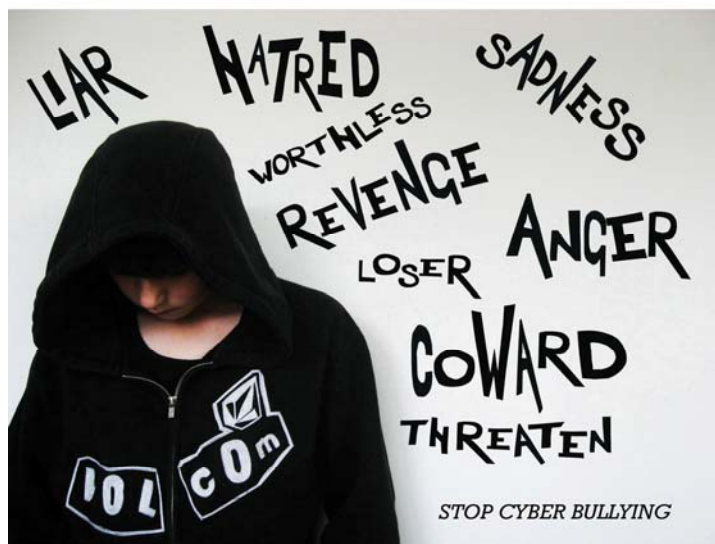
## Parent Volunteers Required for 2nd Hand Book/Uniform Sale

Mrs Jacqui Jobling has kindly agreed to be our Book/Uniform Sale Convenor for this year. We are seeking parent volunteers to give Jacqui some help on the Hand In Day and the Sale Day, details hereunder:

Hand In Day	Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> December from 2.30 to 5.30pm
Sale Day	Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> December from 2.30 to 5.30pm

Help will be needed before and after these times but being a volunteer, you can work the hours that suit you. If you would like to offer your assistance, please call Jacqui Jobling on 5977 4927 between 4pm and 6pm weekdays.

These two thought provoking posters were designed by Media Studies students Priscilla Mery and Brooke Griffin. We are using them to promote our Information Evening on Cyber Bullying and Sexual Assault. Being prepared and well informed should be a must for all parents and carers.



### Sexual Assault and Cyber Bullying Information Evening

*For all Parents and carers  
Year Prep - 10  
When: 26/ 11/ 09 7:30pm  
Where: Somerville Secondary College  
PH: 5973 1000*

### Sexual Assault



*Information Evening  
For all Parents and carers  
Year Prep - 10  
When: 26/ 11/ 09 7:30pm  
Where: Somerville Secondary College  
PH: 5973 1000*

## COULD YOU BECOME A FOSTER CARER?

You could care for a child in your home for a planned period of time. The aim is to reunite them with their families.

**It takes all types of people to help with all types of children.**

**Our carers are married, de facto, single, gay, lesbian, religious or not, and from a variety of cultures.**

*Full training, 24hour support & reimbursements are provided.*

*Relevant screening, police & working with children checks will be conducted to ensure the safety and protection of children.*

**For any more information about Foster care phone:**

**9212 3900**



# Ads & Community Announcements



**Beleza** School Uniforms  
 why pay more elsewhere?  
**BEST PRICES** on all your school uniform needs  
 AUSTRALIAN made & IMPORTS

**Evergreen TURF**



**SECUREcorp**

**St Andrews Church in Somerville has opened its door to a long awaited Youth Group GET CONNECTED held every Friday night for fun activities, crazy games, film nights**

meet new people, eat delicious food and much, much more

St. Andrews Church 6pm-7.30pm  
 2 Eramosa Road West Cost \$3.00



**Bakers Delight**

**Kerry's Personal Training**  
 Will be running Circuit Classes  
 On Tuesday & Thursdays  
 At 1.00 pm  
 Starting on the 27th October  
 For 8 weeks  
 For enquiries please call  
 Kerry on 0414 482 431




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**MANUAL & AUTOMATIC LESSONS**  
 OUR MOST POPULAR PACKAGE

PRODUCT # 11  
 PURCHASE 2 X 45MIN STD DAY TIME LESSONS & GET THE 3<sup>RD</sup> STD DAY TIME LESSON

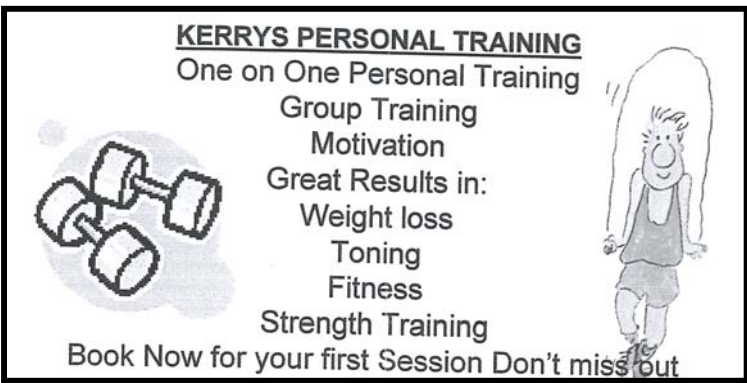
**!!!\*ABSOLUTELY FREE !!!**

Total Value \$126.00 Special Price ~~\$84.00!!!~~

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**0419 376 926**

\*Conditions Apply  
 \*Offer Valid To Current Student Card Holders Only  
 \*Ask Us About Keys2Drive  
 \*Cert IV Driving Instructor  
 \*Working With Children Authority



**KERRY'S PERSONAL TRAINING**  
 One on One Personal Training  
 Group Training  
 Motivation  
 Great Results in:  
 Weight loss  
 Toning  
 Fitness  
 Strength Training  
 Book Now for your first Session Don't miss out



With our card...  
 ...our organisation gets the CASH!  
**RITCHIES COMMUNITY BENEFIT CARDS**

**Ritchies Community Benefits Cards**

The College has a number of pre-registered cards for all your family members. Just ask at the front office..



Please email the following address if you would like this newsletter sent to you electronically.  
[scurran@somerville.vic.edu.au](mailto:scurran@somerville.vic.edu.au)