

Principal's Report—August 5th, 2009

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Dates to Remember



18th August

Drug & Alcohol workshop

27th August

Willy Wonka Matinee

28th August

Willy Wonka Friday Night

29th August

Willy Wonka Saturday Night

1st September

Year 7 Inoculations Hep C

3rd September

PSSSA Athletics

17th September

Parent Teacher Interviews

4pm—8pm

18th September

End of Term 3—2.30 finish

Missing Reports

As some parents will be aware extended staff illness resulted in some Mathematics and Science reports not being completed for the end of last semester reporting cycle. We are currently working on an “interim” report that will give parents with missing reports an update on the progress of their child. These reports will be mailed out to parents shortly.

Somerville SC Soccer Field

Two weekends ago saw the first official hiring of our FIFA Soccer Pitch by local community clubs. Baxter Soccer Club and Western Port Soccer Club have both made bookings to use this first class community facility. Last Wednesday saw the field and the running track being used to host our first “Athletics Day”. The number of students participating in events was outstanding. The tight inside lane corners did not seem to slow our students down as they raced in 200, 400 and 800 metre events. With over 280 events the smooth operation of the day was an organizational triumph for our Assistant Sports Coordinator – Miss Sharna Evans. The support of all staff and the outstanding efforts of our students made for a fantastic day.

Course Selection for 2010

Students currently in Years 8 and 9 should by now have submitted their elective request forms for next year. The next step in the process is for the school to determine how many electives can be offered and which of the electives are “viable”. Students will know their successful elective choices before the end of this term. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that payment of elective fees is not optional. Entry into fee paying electives will not be guaranteed until payment for those electives is received by the school. Where upfront payment of elective fees is not possible, Payment Plans can be organized by contacting the Business Manager, Mrs. Eames.

National School Pride funding

Late last week the school received the first half of its \$200,000 grant under the Commonwealth Government Building the Education Revolution program. As part of this program, installation of interactive white boards in all classroom spaces will begin shortly as will the construction of shade sails over the “Teenrager” equipment. Funding of \$125,000 that Mr Humphries (Network Manager) and I applied for last year has also recently been confirmed under the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund. We expect to purchase an additional 100 computers for student use before the end of this term.

Beacon Foundation – Future Success Charter Signing Ceremony

It was truly a privilege to be present at, and to speak at, the recent “Year 10 Future Success” event held in the recently refurbished Somerville Mechanics Hall. Highlights of the event included a thoroughly engaging “hands on” presentation by Glenn Manton formerly a player for the Carlton Football Club and also a fully qualified and experienced teacher. Glenn’s presentation was superbly targeted to his audience and engaging for all present. Each Year 10 student had completed a PowerPoint slide that included details of their plans for the future and Miss Andrews produced a brilliant “multimedia” presentation which enthralled the students and guests. Congratulations to our Beacon Coordinator and Careers Teacher Mrs. Catherine Arnold on the exceptional organization of a truly moving event.

Welcome and Welcome Back

It is an absolute pleasure to be able to welcome back – if only for a short time – Mrs. Holman and Mrs. Marie-Jeanne to the “operational” staff of Somerville Secondary College. Both Mrs Holman and Mrs Marie-Jeanne have temporarily returned from “family leave” to assist the school whilst a number of staff are on leave.

Leadership Coach

We have been extremely fortunate to have recently gained access to a Leadership Coach to work with the College Leadership & Curriculum Teams. Mr. Greg Edwards – formerly Principal of Rosebud Secondary College – and a highly respected Educational Leader is now working with the College staff 1.5 days per week.

Chris Lloyd

Term 3 SSC Inter-school sport program is off to another great start!

State Cross Country: We are very proud of Jay Forrest, Jessica Thornell and Elizabeth Brew who competed at the VSSSA State finals at Bundoora Park on Friday, July 24th. Qualifying three students for State Cross Country is a first at Somerville Secondary College.

Athletics Carnival: The first SSC Athletics Carnival was held on **Wednesday, July 29th**. We are extremely excited to be able to hold an athletics carnival here at school.

PSSSA Team Competitions (Students have been e-mailed team lists):

Thursday, August 6th Intermediate (Year 9/10): Basketball (Boys), Basketball (Girls), Hockey (Boys), Table Tennis (Boys) and Table Tennis (Girls).

Monday, August 17th Year 8: Basketball (Boys), Basketball (Girls), Hockey (Boys), Hockey (Girls), Table Tennis (Boys) and Table Tennis (Girls).

Friday, August 28th Year 7: Basketball (Boys), Basketball (Girls) Hockey (Boys), Hockey (Girls), Table Tennis (Boys) and Table Tennis (Girls).

Friday, August 21st: PSSSA Junior Golf Competition

Thursday, September 3rd: PSSSA District Athletics Competition

Joe Wilson

SSC Inter-school Sports Co-ordinator

jwilson@somerville.vic.edu.au

Athletics Day

The first annual all school Athletics Day was held on Wednesday, July 29th. Based on parent, student and staff feedback, the event was a huge success – the school experienced the largest student attendance and participation rate in comparison to previous years. I would like to congratulate our students for their exceptional performance during the day. “Special” congratulations to Ms. Evans, the primary Athletics Day organiser, and staff who assisted throughout the day. Clearly, a new tradition has been started at Somerville Secondary College!

Joe Wilson



Programs & Initiatives

Beacon Charter Board

On Thursday July 23rd, the College held its inaugural No Dole Charter Signing in conjunction with the Beacon Foundation; a national not for profit organisation that works with schools to prepare students for their future career pathways. Our Year 10 students have been working diligently with their Year 10 Form teachers on goal setting and career planning as they prepare for life beyond this College. The students participated in a ceremony whereby they publicly declared that they would strive to be engaged in meaningful work or training. The students' pledge and the signing of the Charter Board was witnessed and supported by significant local business people, teachers, principals, parents and friends. The students were also lucky enough to hear an inspirational guest speaker – former AFL star, media identity and philanthropist Glenn Manton, who urged our Year 10's to pursue their dreams despite the many barriers that may be placed in their way.



After wonderful musical performances by Priscilla Mery and Emily Coates, the morning was concluded with an informal BBQ lunch. This provided the opportunity for our Year 10 students to launch a mark on the shoulders of an AFL footballer, and show him how it's done at Somerville Secondary College. Please look out for our 2009 Charter Board in the front office foyer.

Catherine Arnold

Careers Coordinator

Education Update

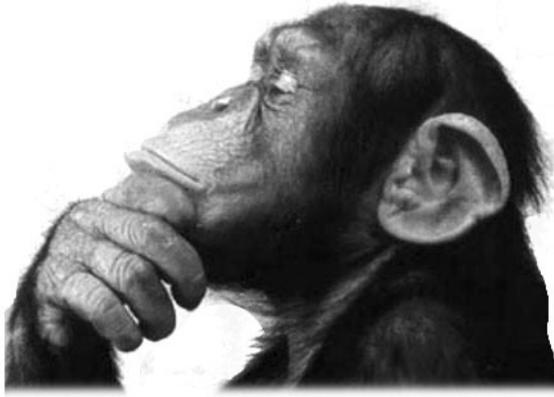
Engagement Guidelines

The Minister for Education recently announced that the current attendance and code of conduct guidelines for Victoria government schools will be replaced by the new *Effective Schools are Engaging Schools: Student Engagement Policy Guidelines*. These new guidelines recognise that schools should be safe, inclusive and supportive environments where students strive to achieve their best.

The key element of the new guidelines is the development of a Student Engagement Policy for our school. This policy will communicate the school's rights, expectations and the consequences for inappropriate behaviour. Our school community is not only made of students and teachers but also includes parents, grandparents, friends and other members of the community who care about our school. For this reason, I seek your input and assistance over the coming months in order to develop a Student Engagement Policy for Somerville Secondary College which reflects your views as important members of the school community.

If you would like more information on the new guidelines please see our office staff for a Frequently Asked Questions flyer, or the guidelines are available on the internet at www.education.vic.gov.au

Ads & Community Announcements



Wanted a name for the school Magazine!!
the best will win a music voucher for \$30

How to enter:

* You must put your choice in the subject area of the email. (One per student)

* then send it to Mr Pavey

ppavey@somervillesc.vic.edu.au

Closes Friday the 15th August



Beleza

20% OFF SALE— August 3—August 15

Includes Club Membership

(To join simply complete a membership form at our store)

Eftpos/Major credit cards available

No Lay-By during this sale

scurran@somervillesc.vic.edu.au

Please email the address above if you would like this newsletter sent to you electronically.

Thank you.— Sue Curran



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Calling for Sponsors

What: Sponsors

When: The sooner the better.

Where: To be displayed around the soccer pitch, on sport uniforms, at school events and in appropriate school publications.

Why: To get Somerville Secondary College off the ground and establish our Sport Program, including equipment and uniforms for sport teams.

How: By contacting Chris Lloyd on 03 5973 1000 or by email somerville.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

We are very excited at Somerville Secondary College about having our own school and our own identity. We know the community has been waiting a long time to have its own school and we would love you, your family and local businesses to be a part of it. Every little bit helps so we would be very grateful for any assistance you could offer.