Principal’s Report—August 27th, 2009

On Tuesday the 25th of August, 31 students selected from Years 9 & 10, ably supported by our Head of English Mrs Valerie Potter, participated in a journalism workshop conducted jointly by the DEECD and The Leader Newspaper Group. The ultimate outcome of the project - to be completed in a very short timeline - will be the publication of student journalistic endeavours about Somerville Secondary College in the local Leader Newspaper. Ultimately it is possible that some of our students’ work will be published in the Herald Sun newspaper. The project is known as “Shine” - please keep an eye on the local Leader Newspaper for the finished product.

The newly developed Somerville Secondary College website went quietly “live” last week. Some areas still need to be finalized but the majority of the content is now in place. If you wish to register to receive the school newsletter by email you can now do so via the school website. You will find the website at www.somervillesc.vic.edu.au

At the August meeting of the School Council a draft policy on addressing Parent Concerns & Complaints was presented. This policy will be available for viewing shortly via the school’s website. The website will now become the default method of distribution of school policy documents. Readers will need to have Acrobat Reader or similar software installed in order to access the documents. The software is available as a free download from www.adobe.com

Parent - Teacher interviews will be conducted on Thursday, September 17th. Interim Reports will be posted home during the second last week of this term. Included with the report will be the booking forms necessary for students to make appointments with teachers. Students should make appointments with teachers as soon as possible after parents have decided which teachers they need or want to see in relation to their child’s progress. In order to maximize the number of appointments, interviews will be for a maximum of 10 minutes.

Regards,
Chris Lloyd
Principal

College fundraising

Earlier this year our college sought sponsorship from business and industry community members. We were partially successful and are grateful for those who have supported us. In an effort to raise funds still needed for many programs around the school, including sports uniforms, we are about to launch some projects. In this newsletter we have an insert for Billy G’s Gourmet Cookie Dough. There are seven different types of flavours, and it comes in a convenient tub. Later in the year we will be conducting a ‘Family Meat Pie’ drive, a ‘Spring Car Boot Sale’, and Breast Cancer Awareness (Pink) day. Please support these fundraisers if you can.

Thank you
Somerville Secondary College School Board
Graf Road is currently being monitored very closely by Police. The legal speed is 40 km around SomerCare nursing home, Somerville Secondary College and Somerville Rise Primary School. Please be aware of the speed limit. It is in everyone’s interest to comply.

Take a look at our brand new website

www.somervillesc.vic.edu.au

Parents will find a lot of useful information here, including our uniform policy and our homework policy. So the next time you hear them say “...we don’t have any homework tonight...” or “...The teacher said I can wear my jeans on the excursion...” just go to our website and win the argument!

CONGRATULATIONS!

to Jack Sawyer who is one of only twenty students across Victoria for gaining a scholarship from the Department of Education that will go toward his Study Tour to Malaysia for nine days this October 2009.

Helena Anggraeni  Head of Indonesian

On Monday, August 17th Year 8 Boys and Girls Basketball teams attended District Competition at Dromana Secondary College. We are extremely proud of how the Boys and Girls team worked together and supported each other. Excitement was evident as both Basketball teams defeated Western Port Secondary College. Thank you to Brandon Sawyer and Zach Whillans who refereed at the tournament; several teachers from other schools commented on the outstanding job Zach and Brandon did. I am continually impressed at the level of professionalism our students exhibit during sporting competitions!

Upcoming PSSSA competitions include:

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

Monday, August 24th: PSSSA Junior Golf Competition

Thursday, September 3rd: PSSSA District Athletics Competition

Joe Wilson  SSC Inter-School Sports

**Admin Advice**

Take a look at our brand new web site

www.somervillesc.vic.edu.au

Parents will find a lot of useful information here, including our uniform policy and our homework policy. So the next time you hear them say “...we don’t have any homework tonight...” or “...The teacher said I can wear my jeans on the excursion...” just go to our website and win the argument!

CONGRATULATIONS!

to Jack Sawyer who is one of only twenty students across Victoria for gaining a scholarship from the Department of Education that will go toward his Study Tour to Malaysia for nine days this October 2009.

Helena Anggraeni  Head of Indonesian

On Tuesday 18th August, our Year 10 students were taken to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Careers and Jobs Expo. This activity provided students with the opportunity to discover employment, training and education options, particularly in the local area. They were able to meet and talk to a variety of people from a range of career areas; of particular interest were the Defence and Police Forces. Students also participated in workshops on interview preparation and dressing for success. The Careers expo excursion was a fitting conclusion to the process of pathways planning and subject selection currently being completed across Year 10. Any careers enquiries should be directed to the College Careers Teacher.

Catherine Arnold

On Tuesday 13th August 2009, the Advanced Indonesian students and Miss Anggraeni went to Somerville Rise Primary School where the Grade Two students introduced the “Kecak” dance which is a Balinese traditional dance of a monkey dance performed in a circle. The younger children thoroughly enjoyed the activity and it gave the advanced students a chance to interact and teach younger children some Indonesian in a fun and relaxed way.

Monday, August 17th is a very significant day in Indonesia, as it marks the National Day of Independence. The Advanced Indonesian students performed the “Kecak” dance with the Grade Two students at their School Assembly which was a major success. Later that day, the Advanced Indonesian students worked with the Grade 3 students and taught them “Suit” which is the Indonesian Rock, Paper, Scissors. It is very similar to the English version, although it does include some twists. They also played “Conglak”, which is an Indonesian traditional strategic board game. Once again the Advanced Indonesian students helped the younger students to gain a grasp of the rules through the language of Indonesian. It was also a great way for the next generation of high school students to gain a grasp of a second language, and also provide some interest in activities enjoyed by children of a different culture and country. This interaction between students of differing ages also gave the advanced Indonesian students a chance to learn Indonesian culture in a different environment to their structured classroom routine.

Overall the two days spent at Somerville Rise Primary School were a huge success, thanks to the assistance from Miss Leanne Day. Not only did it provide the younger pupils with a basic concept of Indonesian culture and language, but also provided the Advanced Indonesian students a real context and audience for their studies. The co-operation shown on both sides was a real confidence builder for both schools and the community as a whole. It has provided a good basis for future endeavors with Somerville Rise Primary School.

Helena Anggraeni  Head of Indonesian