

Year 9 City Week

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Our annual 'City Week' program ran last week with students spending the vast majority of the time at various venues around central Melbourne and the Docklands. This is a great experience for our students as it builds their confidence and expands their horizons beyond thinking that "the world ends just north of Frankston". I would like to acknowledge the work of Mr Yuginovich and the team of teachers and non-teaching staff who organized and designed the program and accompanied the students during the program.

Drainage Works

The drainage works designed to save the school buildings from further flooding events is well under way. I would like to ask parents to assist the school to reinforce the changes in "out of bounds" areas around the school related to these works. We have asked the contractors to ensure that no heavy machinery is used during student breaks to assist in keeping our students as safe as possible.

VCAL – School Wetlands Project

Since early this year Mrs Arnold and Mr Bookless have been working on developing a community partnership with Visionstream Australia as part of Year 11 VCAL program. Last week we met with representatives from Visionstream regarding development of a community wetlands project on the school grounds. The project proposal and its incorporation into the school curriculum were very well received by the representatives from Visionstream and I am hopeful of this exciting venture moving forward in the near future. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Mrs Arnold and Mr Bookless in establishing an innovative and engaging VCAL program for our students and for the work they have put into this proposal. I would like to also acknowledge the work of one of our parents, Mr David McKinney, in promoting this project with Visionstream.

24/7 Student Learning Devices (SLDs) – Years 9 to 12

Thank you to the parents who have contacted me regarding this program and their interest on behalf of their sons/daughters. As I indicated in my previous newsletter report the trial will be conducted with one year level selected from Years 9-11. At this point in time the majority of parents contacting me have been parents of Year 10 students. I will be organizing an information evening for parents and students before the end of this term to present information about the project and answer parent questions. In order for this project to proceed the overwhelming majority of students at the selected level will need to "sign up". If parents are interested in the program (which involves a commitment to cover the insurance costs – expected to be no more than \$60 per year) but have not yet contacted me, they can email me via the school mailbox at somerville.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au with the name and year level of their child. A decision on proceeding with this idea, and the year level we will trial, will be based upon parent feedback - so please send me an email if you are interested.

Coming events - Exams

From June 6 to 8 the school will be conducting subject examinations for students in Years 10 and 11. On June 16 all students currently studying Unit 3/4 Studio Arts or History will also be required to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT) – this is a three hour examination which is conducted by the VCAA as part of all Year 12 studies.

Pupil Free Days

Friday June 10th is a Pupil Free Day at the school – students are not required as teachers will be working on finalizing reports. Students will not be required back at school until Tuesday June 14th as Monday is a public holiday.

Chris Lloyd

Dates to Remember

6th - 8th June 2011

Later years exams

Friday 10th June 2011

Report writing (Student free)

Monday 13th June 2011

Queen's Birthday holiday

Thursday 16th June 2011

Year 12 GAT

Friday 17th June 2011

Semester 2 start for Year 12

A helping hand....

Unfortunately in the last days of term one a fellow Somerville family's house burnt down in tragic circumstances. Together as a college we decided we needed to help. So the student leaders got together and decided the best way to raise some much needed funds for our fellow student's family was to have a free dress day.



Last Monday, students came to school in free dress and managed to raise a total of \$318.10. I would like to thank all of the students who supported a fellow student and donated money.

Catherine May - Student Leadership

FREE FOOTY TICKETS NOW CLOSED !



15 double tickets for Collingwood V West Coast Eagles match on Sunday 29th May went to students who wrote some very desperate letters (begging, really!). The idea was - If students wanted a shot at a double ticket, they needed to let us know how big a footy fan they were - whether they helped out around the house...things like that.

The tickets were very generously donated by Mick Cannon - Health & Physical Education Team Leader, a huge thank you to Mr. Cannon !

Many of the students said this would be their first ever footy match. We hope you all enjoyed the day !



Communication devices – School policy

Communication devices, including mobile Phones and IPods (or similar) are allowed in the College.



The owner onus rule applies in all circumstances.

These devices can be used by students before school, recess, lunch and after school.

In class time these devices are to be stored by students in a secured locker.

Students, who misuse these devices in class time (i.e. use them other than as an educational tool, will have them confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.

Repeat offences will result in further confiscation with parent/guardian needing to come and collect the devices from the College.

Fit To Drive Feedback

On Mon 16th May Somerville Secondary College had its first ever 'Fit To Drive' presentation, a presentation brought together by Vic Roads, RACV, Vic Police and the local community in response to the rising road toll of young people, particularly on the Mornington Peninsula.

The aim is to help teach our young people about personal safety on the roads, responsibility and strategies to make them safer drivers and passengers.

The program was a great success, with 98% of our students saying they would recommend this program to others their age, which was a fantastic response!

As a part of the feedback, these are a sample of some of the comments made, with gender and age of respondents:

"It has shown me a lot about driving. The effects of doing the wrong thing really made me think about each situation" F16

"Always speak up if you're feeling uncomfortable in the situation" F16

"I learnt to be organised if I'm going to a party" M17

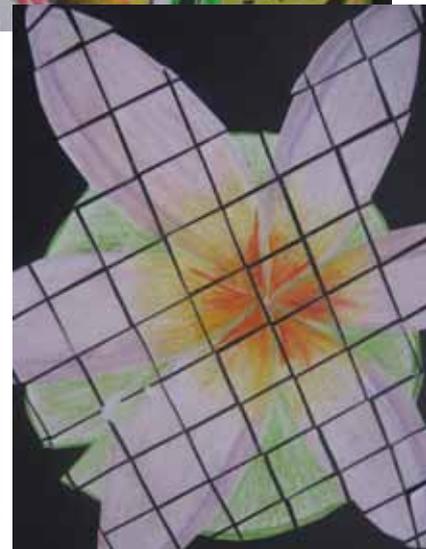
Overall, it was a great success, so a big thanks to all parents who supported their young people in coming along to this very important day, which will hopefully become a regular fixture here at Somerville Secondary.

Paul 'Digger' Randle

Chaplain



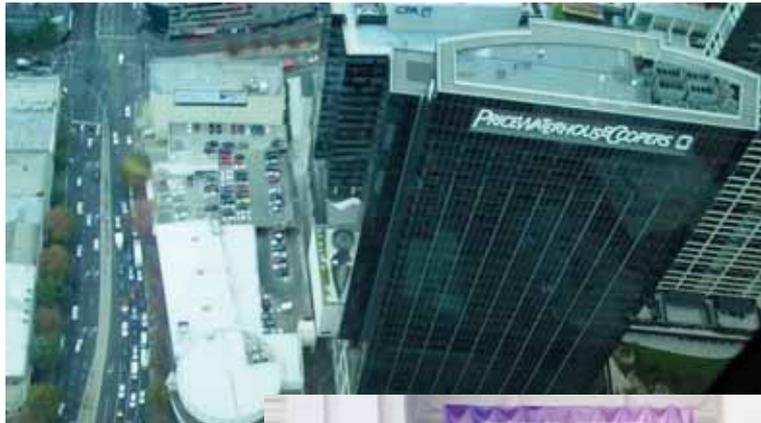
Student Pieces



EUREKA SKY DECK

On Tuesday the 17th of May, 9A visited the Eureka Sky Deck whilst we were on City Week. The Eureka Sky Deck is over 88 storeys high and sways up to 60 cm in the wind. Some students decided to go out on The Edge. The Edge is a clear box that goes out the side of the Eureka Tower as shown in the picture above. Some of the students were even game enough to lay down on the glass. I would definitely suggest going there because it is a life time experience and lots of fun. You get to learn so much and get to see the most incredible sights!

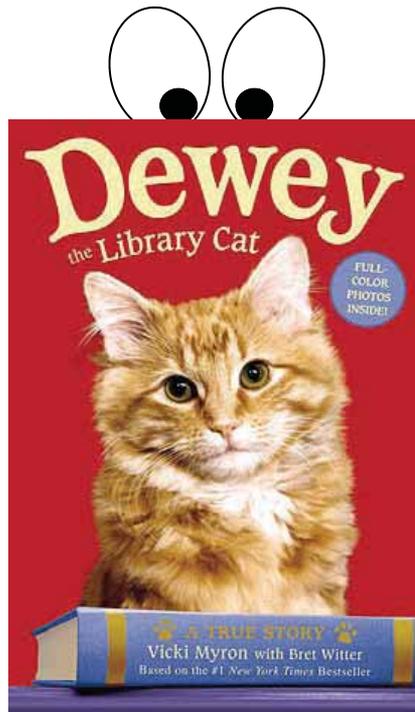
Chelsea



*City
Week
Photos*



Libraries & Books + Reading = Enjoyment



Books Worth A Look

“Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World”

By Vicki Myron

One freezing winter night in 1988, a ginger kitten was shoved into the after-hours book-return slot at the public library in Spencer, Iowa. And in this tender story, Myron, the library director, tells of the impact the cat, named Dewey, had on the library and its patrons, and on Myron herself. Through her developing relationship with the feline, Myron recounts the economic and social history of Spencer as well as her own success story—despite an alcoholic husband, living on welfare, and health problems.

This book is shortly to become a movie starring Meryl Streep



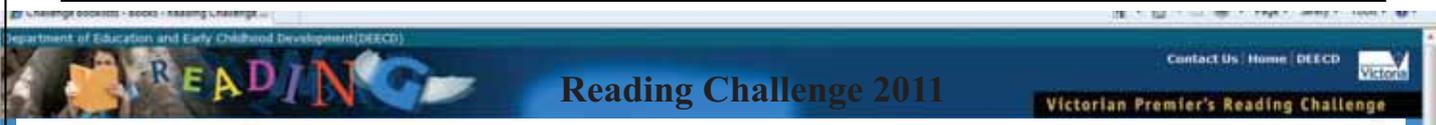
Reading is a wonderful, selfish, greedy pleasure!

We now have ‘Kindle’ electronic books - try them out. Could this be our reading future?



It only takes one book to turn students (anyone!) from reluctant readers into readers for life. The problem is - which book?

If you haven't enjoyed a book before, it isn't easy to understand that there is a reward for the effort. Stories are important to all of us. So many students are missing out on so many great stories in their life. If parents are seen to be reading, it really does encourage young ones. We welcome parents to visit our Resource Centre and browse our shelves, maybe you will pick up a story that may change YOUR life!



Parents and guardians

The Challenge promotes the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools and encourages parents and families to support their children's reading in and beyond school. It is not a competitive event but rather one that focuses on individual challenge and participation.

For the Challenge, students set their own reading targets (to be achieved over three school terms) by reference to the targets set for their year level (the targets for each year level can be found on the Challenge website at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/.) The Challenge website also provides comprehensive information about key dates, as well as answers to frequently asked questions by parents and students, guidelines for schools and, of course, the 2011 Challenge book lists.

Heading towards....



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**

VCAL GARDEN PROJECT

An element of our VCAL assessments for Term One was to build four environmentally friendly garden beds. This was done in cooperation with our Year 10 Horticulture class. We completed this assessment during our Math classes. Our teacher Mrs. Arnold wrote a letter to the Better Environmental Solutions to inform Neil Relph of what we were intending to do. Neil came back with a positive response and kindly donated enough environment wood to create all four garden beds.

During this process the Mornington Peninsula Shire donated a 3000 litre water tank which was very generous.

As part of the Year 11 VCAL class we would like to give a big thanks to Blue Scope Steel for donating a pair of overalls to each student, Neil Relph from Better Environmental Solutions for all his very kind donations of the wood and his very helpful visit to share good ideas on how to build the garden boxes.



During many Math classes with Mr. Bookless we were split into groups and our task was to measure the length and width of all the pieces donated. Once this was completed we enlisted the help of Mr. McManus to use the band saw to cut all the pieces of wood into the same measurements. Both boys and girls got out there and measured the size of the garden beds and where we wanted them to be placed. We then got picks and shovels to dig the garden beds. The main contributors who actually built our garden beds for 3 days straight were Luke, Brodie & Brodie, Lachie, Nick, Daniel and John.

Our goal was to be as environmentally friendly as we can. So Neil Relph visited our school and showed us how recycled wood is made as it is a different type and texture to normal wood. The donated wood is made from printer cartridges. Over 18 million printer consumables are used by Australians per year. Up to 80% of imaging consumables are thrown to landfill each year. 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' was launched to capture and recover these potentially hazardous wastes. 'Cartridges 4 Planet Earth' is a natural multi-vendor campaign with collection boxes in participating Australia Post, Harvey Norman, Dick Smith, Tandy and OfficeWorks across Australia. 'Cartridges 4 Planet Earth' also has collection boxes installed in Corporate and Government organizations Australia wide. 'Close the Loop' is a leading global recycler who specializes in the collection and recovery of electronic scrap. Close The Loop was set up with the sole purpose of making sure this complex cartridge waste stream does not end up in landfill. Once the cartridges are returned to 'Close The Loop' they are crushed separated into plastics, metals and toner/ink. It is the polystyrene and related styrene plastics that are 100% recycled and formed into the Ewood product.

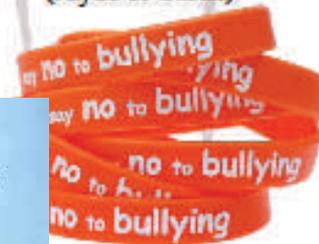
Aimee & Jessica

Student Pieces



Bullies aren't cool, there are so many of 'em at every school.
 There's this kid named Scott, he gets bullied a lot.
 He got teased last night and got into a fight.
 One punch made a difference, the bullies heart is filled with ignorance.
 Scott went home and told his dad, this made his whole family quite mad.
 He tried to hide but all he could do is cry.
 He always cops the blame, and I think it's a shame.
 He causes trouble and acts like a fool,
 Kids get annoyed and call him a fool.
 When he got older he realised he was bad,
 And this memory makes him feel quite sad.
 There's this chick in my class, her names Darc.
 She is a witch, and the other kids always snitch.
 She pulls mean faces and is really racist
 Why is Darcy so mean? She always kicks Dean.
 Maybe its cause she takes drugs, she should just come clean.

(Jayde & Sarah)



Melbourne is cruel

I never understood why mum told me not to walk the city streets at night. But I guess you could say I understand because now I lay on the edge of the footpath with stranger's faces and sirens all around me and the only thing I feel is warm blood covering me unsure if it is mine and the ice cold feel to my skin. I look around and wonder why didn't I listen?

I had planned to get a lift home from Alisha's but that fell through after her mum found out she had to go back into the office. I thought about my mum and what she had said but I pushed that thought to the back of my head and figured if I walked quickly I could get home in about 10 minutes.

As I started down the street I had an unsettling feeling in the pit of my stomach but I ignored it. As I reached the top of the street and down the footpath my mum's words were scratching at the back of my mind and replayed over in my head "don't walk the city streets at night"

And this weird feeling I couldn't shake it as much as I tried it just got worse and worse. Suddenly my thoughts were interrupted by the loud buzzing noise of my phone; it was my mum calling. I pressed the hang up button knowing I was almost home... but not knowing I would never make it because in that split second the sound of my scream pierced the still night air. I collapsed on the footpath sobbing with pain and finding it hard to breathe. Within a couple of minutes which seemed like forever to me I look over and see I dark shadow running toward me.

And now laying here surrounded with paramedics and police and women running over to me screaming and yelling saying "that's my baby" my mum comes over picks my frail body up and holds me in her arms and before I lay down to rest with my last ounce of breath I look my mum straight in the eyes and say "I'm sorry mum, I love you"

By Chelsea



Community Announcements & Advertisements



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