Principal’s Report—September 5th 2011

Schools Access Monash (SAM)

As part of the SAM program:

On August 26th, all Year 10 students attended Monash University – Clayton Campus for an introduction to university life and an orientation program.

On August 29th, all Year 11 students met with students from Monash University to participate in the M-Power game.

On September 5th all Year 11 students will take part in a Study Skills program provided by Monash University and presented by ICS.

5 of our best Year 11 students are participating in a ‘high achievers’ program – congratulations to Minnie, Olivia, Natalie, Jacinta and Luke on your nomination and selection for this program.

5 of our best Year 10 students will be able to participate in a ‘high achievers’ program to be conducted during the upcoming school holidays.

These activities are just a sample of the benefits that Somerville SC students have gained and will gain in the future from our association with Monash University.

Student Learning Devices (SLD) Final Information Session

A final session for students and parents who could not attend the previous information evenings will be conducted at Somerville SC at 5:00 pm on September 19th. Students in Years 10 or 11 (and their parents) are invited to attend this information session on Somerville Secondary College’s 1:1 Netbook Program. This will be the final opportunity for participation in this program for students in these year levels.

Due to technical issues with ACER, the supplier of our netbook computers, there has been a delay in the delivery of Student Learning Devices. We expect 50 devices to be delivered this week (which Mr Humphries will image) and 100 more devices to be delivered later next week. The process of rolling these devices out to students will begin as soon as we have the devices ready to go. Parents will need to ensure that the first year insurance payment has been made to the school before the device can be allocated.

Interim Reports / Parent Teacher Interviews – Term 4, Week 1

As part of our processes to improve communication with parents we will be changing to an online booking system for the final round of parent-teacher interviews for 2011. Interviews will be conducted on October 13th. A letter will be included with the Interim Report which will contain a unique login code and password. Parents will be able to book and confirm their own interview sessions using the PTO (Parent Teacher Online) booking system. Parents who do not have access to the internet will be able to call the school and ask to have the bookings made on their behalf by the attendance officer. Reports will be posted home on September 22nd. If you do not receive your son’s or daughter’s report, please contact the school at the beginning of Term 4 and we will send home a replacement copy with your son or daughter.

Microsoft Partners in Learning – Innovative Schools Program

As part of our involvement in this program Lynn Motteram, Doug Haskett, Dayna Brett and I attended a conference at Varsity College in Queensland last week. The secondary component of the school has approximately 1800 students all working within a 1:1 netbook program. It was very interesting talking with the teachers and students about the way in which their teaching and learning program had changed as a result of having 24/7 access to a netbook computer. I am still pursuing the DEECD regarding the allocation of additional funds to Somerville SC to allow the inclusion of all students in Years 9 – 12 and I will be contacting prospective parents (Years 7 and 8) shortly regarding a parent co-contribution model that will allow us to equip all of our students with netbooks on a 24/7 basis. Watch this space.

Chris Lloyd
Parents/Guardians!!

**How Can YOU Ensure a Positive Start to Your Son or Daughter’s 2012 Year?**

Term Three is an extremely busy and important term in the school calendar as we prepare for the 2012 school year. Our ‘Early Start’ begins on November 28th which means we have to collect a lot of information from students before this date.

You will have received a Student Intentions 2012 slip in the Semester Report we posted home. We rely on this information to calculate accurate numbers for the following year to enable us to offer a variety of subjects.

After the Subject Information Evening run early this term, you and your son or daughter were required to select subjects and return the signed forms. Once we receive these forms, we then enter these choices into the computer. Once we know what subjects students wish to study, we then begin the process of constructing the timetable, which is a really complex process.

If we don’t know exactly who is returning to school for 2012 or the subjects students wish to study, then we are unable to allocate students and teachers to classes.

If you have not already done so, please return the Student Intentions 2012 slip and the correctly filled in and signed Subject Selection sheet immediately.

If we do not receive this information, then your son or daughter will not be counted in the numbers for 2012 and will not be allocated to any classes.

Lynn Motteram
Assistant Principal

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**2011 Careers Expo**

On Thursday August 25th, Year 10 students attended the annual Mornington Peninsula Shire Careers Expo to explore a range of future career pathways. This excursion is an important component of the careers education program at Somerville Secondary College and allows students to experience a number of activities aimed at helping them refine their career choices. Students had the opportunity to take their blood pressure, build a brick wall, time themselves against the police force recruit fitness test and take apart a diesel engine.

The school also had two students chosen to take part in the community organisation “Fitted for Work” fashion parade. Cheynelle and Chloe were fantastic representatives on the day and modelled a range of clothes designed to illustrate how to dress for success. Well done girls!

Catherine Arnold
Senior Pathways Learning Area Head
Careers Coordinator
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER - years 8 to 12 for 2012


Early Start Program: On 28th November 2011, students will be rolling over into their next year level which means they will be commencing their studies for 2012 in 2011. The early rollover will mean that books (new or secondhand) must be purchased for the relevant subjects to complete coursework and homework. In the past, parents have purchased books in January for student use that year. This year Landmark will be delivering the books early, dates as outlined below:

- Booklists will be distributed home in Student Packs by mid October
- Booklists will need to be returned to College no later than 11th November 2011
- Collection Day for Book Packs will be Monday, 28th November from 3pm to 6pm in the Auditorium

Secondhand Books and Uniforms

These items may be handed in to the office from Thursday, 24th November until Monday, 28th November up until 12 noon. This will enable students to have access to their text books for preparation of exams being held that same week. More details regarding the secondhand sale will be forthcoming in the student packs distributed mid October.

Sale day will be Monday, 28th November from 3pm to 6pm (same time as Landmark Collection day).

You will have the opportunity to purchase secondhand books first before you collect your Landmark Books. If you have purchased the book through Landmark but have the opportunity to purchase one secondhand, then Landmark are happy to remove that book from your Landmark pack and deduct the cost from your total. Please remember to order the book through Landmark on the booklist first because there is no guarantee you will be able to purchase that same book secondhand.

These dates do not apply to our future year 7 students for 2012

Is Education Free?

Victorian government schools provide free instruction in the standard curriculum, however, schools are able to charge for the materials and services used by students during this instruction. Schools may also raise funds by asking for donations.

Financial assistance is available for families and students to help them meet schooling costs. Some assistance – such as the School Start Bonus – is available to all families with children at a particular stage in their schooling. Other forms of assistance are only available to eligible families and students.

Excerpt taken from DEECD website

Payment Plans

As outlined in the notice above, the dates for collection and payment of text books – both new and secondhand - for 2012 will now be on 28th November 2011, instead of the end of January 2012 as would usually happen.

Elective fees for 2012 are due on 25th November and there may be camp deposits etc. which require payment before the end of the year. To make your finances easier, the College encourages our parents to commence a payment plan where they can pay their fees weekly, fortnightly or monthly. We have numerous options available:

**Centrepay:** If you received a payment from Centrelink, you can elect to have a portion paid directly to the College on a fortnightly basis.

**Direct Debit or Internet Transfer:** You can nominate an amount to be deducted from your Bank Account, paid into the College account.

**Credit Card:** We can debit your credit card using our Eftpos facilities.

**BPay:** Each family has their own BPay account and you can use this via your Internet to make payments.

Unfortunately no cash payment plans can be entered into. Payment plans will need to be discussed with the College Office Manager (Amanda O’Keefe) to determine the amount owing, the timeline for payment and the amount to be paid. All the relevant forms are available from Amanda who is very happy to assist you with your financial arrangements.
Student Absence From School

STUDENT ABSENCE LINE: 5973 1098

If your son or daughter is going to be absent from school, please phone our absence line as early as possible on the day of the absence, stating the student name, form, reason for the absence and expected return date. A note is still required upon your son/daughter returning to school.

Mrs Joanne Brown is now our Attendance Officer and she will be contacting families where their child is absent unexplained. By phoning the absence line, this will save us having to phone home for an explanation.

Late Arrival at School

If your son or daughter is going to be late for school, please send them along with a note explaining the reason for their late arrival. School starts with Form Assembly at 8:30am and students are expected to be at their Form Room at 8:30am. Recess detentions are being given to those students who arrive late without an explanation from par-

Did You Know...?

Our Breakfast Club runs on donations of Bread from Baker’s Delight and voluntary contributions from individuals and members of staff.

Maryam, head of Student Services, runs Breakfast Club every Tuesday & Thursday. Maryam currently provides breakfast for around sixty students a week. If a student is able to pay for breakfast, then we ask that they do so with a gold coin. Contributions from families are always welcome.

Breakfast Club is a very practical and hands-on way to support students and help them with nutrition and energy needs for their busy day.

Somerville Secondary College Tours

Tours of Somerville Secondary College will be run from the school office every Wednesday at 10am.

If you would like to book in for a tour please contact the school office on 5973 1000.

Alternatively, if you cannot make one of the tours above, please contact the office to arrange a more suitable date and time.

Thank you,

Stacey Joyce

Transition Coordinator Grade 6 to Year 7
The Australian Teenage Expo is the very first and only event of its kind in Australia that's all about YOU.

Think…..everything that I need to make decisions about, get wise about, want to buy, listen to, look at or get amongst, is there right in front of me.

Then….pack in some amazing entertainment, celebs, music, dance, prizes and giveaways and you start getting the picture.

Walk in…..what do I look at first??? Remember when you were a kid and you went to a Theme Park? You literally went into overload because you had so much to see, do and touch and you just didn’t know where to begin. Welcome back that feeling!
This is not some walk past a boring stand, get a mouldy boring brochure, stuff it in your bag and hope the next one gives you something decent.

This is…get in and do something, see something, actually play, touch or make something. You will walk away from each stand feeling like you have taken something very cool with you.
There’s so much going on, so to make it easy for you, we’ve divided it up into precincts.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precinct 1 - Careers</th>
<th>Precinct 2 - Life</th>
<th>Precinct 3 - Stuff</th>
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<td>Precinct 4 - Fun</td>
<td>Precinct 5 - Know it!</td>
<td>For more information, please go to -</td>
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For more information, please go to -
www.teenageexpo.com.au

Our College Leaders and our Community

Last Friday Madeline and Callaghan of year 11 were invited to meet with our local MP, Neale Burgess, and other leaders from schools within the Somerville-Hastings area. They were there for a student leadership forum to discuss issues within our local community and also wider world issues that concern adolescents. Maddy and Cal raised some genuine issues that concern not only our students but also the young people of Australia. All the leaders worked well together and hope to make this a regular occurrence to ensure the young people's voices are heard.

Catherine May

Student Leadership
Selamat Datang to Ruang Indonesia in the Resource Centre!

Welcome to our Indonesian Room in the Resource Centre!

The whole college celebrated Indonesian Cultural week with daily activities. There was Traditional dancing demonstrated by 2 young ladies - there was a cupcake sale to raise funds for the Orang-utans - there was an Indonesian lunch of Satay, rice and noodles cooked by an Indonesian Restaurant - each day an Indonesian movie was shown and drinks and snacks were handed out by the hundreds! It was a very generous celebration with a huge audience watching the dancing at lunchtime in Ruang Indonesia. Many thanks are owed to Bu Holman, Bu Anggraeni and Widyasari! Thank you to Cheryl Owens and Jenny Graham who made the cup cakes! Thank you to all the students who pitched in.

Lastly, many thanks to all the staff who helped during the week!

Terima kasih!
So far six students have successfully completed the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2011. Others have nearly finished and we hope to celebrate on Awards Night with around 10 challengers. I look forward to seeing all the readers and their families on the night...Well done to all of you!

Our College celebrated Book Week 2011 last week by making bookmarks, labelling and colouring in the continents and finding out what countries our favourite authors are from. Lots of jelly snakes and spot prizes of “Blendy Pens” were handed out - also a number of $10 Gift Cards. Students also filled in a survey designed to make the Library more user friendly and supportive. The feedback from students has been good and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Read it and have it read to you - at the same time!

We now have MP3 players with audio books - ask at the front counter for a copy of “Midnight Sun” the companion novel written by Stephanie Meyers and posted on her website.

Chapter 1 is available to read at lunch. read it and hear it with a friend!

Audio Books - New to the Library
Hard copy distribution to 200 homes each fortnight
E-mail distribution to 180 homes each fortnight

This advertising space for sale
This Size—$10 per issue
Please contact Mrs Wendy Eames
Business Manager 0359 731011

Tyabb Cricket Club Registration Evening
Wednesday 14th September - 5pm - 6:30pm
Tyabb Cricket Clubrooms
1475 Frankston/Flinders Road Tyabb
Contact Ron Dyall - 0457 957267

Did You Know?
Our Gym and FIFA certified Soccer pitch with running track are for hire evenings and weekends

For hire rates and information, please contact Wendy Eames
College Business Manager on 59-731011
Or email  somerville.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

The College Website for back issues of our Newsletter and ‘Communities That Care’ courtesy of Mornington Peninsula Shire
If you are looking for past issues of the “Somerville Source” newsletter - just log on to our website
Our Canteen price list has been added to our website - the most healthy foods for sale are listed as “Green”

www.somervillesc.vic.edu.au