

Principal's Report—24th October 2011

Student Learning Devices (SLDs)

The rollout of the ACER 1830T netbooks to students in Years 10 and 11 is now complete with almost all students (and their parents) taking up the offer of access to a powerful netbook computer on a 24/7 basis. Every student that I have spoken to has spoken positively of the impact of having access to an SLD in every class at school but also at home. There have been a couple of machines damaged accidentally which have been repaired promptly under our parent co-contribution insurance arrangements. A small number of very organized Year 9 students have also received SLDs. In order to maximize the effectiveness of the program the school will be rolling the remaining unallocated machines on a 'Form Group' basis to Year 9 students. At this stage I expect to be contacting parents of the first Year 9 group early next week to arrange an information evening.

I met with the Southern Metropolitan Region Director (Mr Peter Greenwell) on Friday last week and he has committed to contacting DEECD in Melbourne over my concerns with regard to the inadequate funding of machines for students at Somerville SC. I will keep you informed of my progress with this matter.

Parents of students in Years 7, & 9 (2012) will be soon be invited to participate in a parent / school funded rollout of the same SLDs. At the School Council meeting on Monday the council unanimously agreed to pursuing access to an SLD for all students in the school using a parent co-contribution model. Information will be sent directly to parents shortly. The cost of the machines is likely to be between \$75 and \$85 per term for a period of three years. The SLDs will come with all of the school licensed software, making this a particularly affordable program and one that I believe all parents should seriously consider for 2012.

VCAL Coordination Funding

Much has been reported in the print media (both local and state-wide) and on the television and radio regarding cuts to VCAL Coordination funding in schools from 2012. The justification for these cuts is that VCAL is now a well-established program in all schools and that there is no longer a need for these funds. This justification fails to recognise that a small number of schools (including Somerville Secondary College) are only just beginning to implement VCAL. Currently we are running Intermediate VCAL at Year 11 and planning on running a new Senior VCAL program at Year 12 in 2012. I have met with Neale Burgess (Member for Hastings) and Peter Greenwell (Regional Director) regarding this issue and I will keep you informed of any progress. It is still the intention of the school to continue to offer VCAL to our students but cuts may need to be made in other areas as a result of this decision.

NAPLAN

Parents of students in Years 7 and 9 would have received NAPLAN reports for their son/daughter during the last two weeks of last term. The school uses NAPLAN diagnostic data to assist in planning programs for students both within the year level and as individuals. The data for the school as a whole can be viewed at the 'myschool' website (you can 'Google it') but you will not find student improvement data on this particular website. Our most important measure of school performance is the 'matched cohort' data. This data summarizes improvements in NAPLAN performance for the same student in Year 9 and in Year 7 two years earlier. There is some very positive data that can be attributed to our teachers, students and the school's learning programs in these statistics. From 2009 (Year 7) to 2011 (Year 9) the average state increase in NAPLAN reading scores was 38.75 points. Students at Somerville Secondary College improved on average by 46.22 points. There are similar stories in: NAPLAN Writing - State (40.32) Somerville SC (58.44); NAPLAN Spelling - State (44.54) Somerville SC (49.2); NAPLAN Grammar - State (35.24) Somerville SC (37.48); NAPLAN Numeracy - State (41.67) Somerville SC (51.61). In every area of the NAPLAN results our students improved above or well above the State average. Congratulations to our teachers and students.

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Dates to Remember



Tuesday 1st November 2011
Melbourne Cup holiday

Thursday 3rd November 2011
VCE Unit 4 exams

Chris Lloyd

STUDENT ABSENCE LINE: 5973 1098

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.

Administration/Finance Office Open Night

Wednesday, 30th November 2011

Never get a chance to come to the College during normal school hours??

The Administration/Finance Office will be open until 8:00pm on Wednesday, 30th November 2011 where we will be available to assist you with any enquiries you may have regarding your school fees, booklists, camps, EMA, electives etc.

If you wish to commence a payment plan, then this is the perfect opportunity to come and get it started.

Landmark Book Sales for 2012 Text Books – Early Start Program commencing 28/11/2011

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

Second hand Book Sale

Hand In Day for Current Year 7 to Year 11 students (Yr 8 to Year 12 in 2012): Mrs Jacqui Jobling and Mrs Vickie Burke will be available in the Administration Office on **Thursday, 24th November from 2:30pm to 5:30pm** to collect those text books you wish to sell. Please ensure you pack your books in a clearly labelled bag with the appropriate forms attached. These forms will be distributed in student packs being sent home mid October.

For those students still needing their books to study for exams, you have until 12 noon on Monday, 28th November to hand your books in. No books after 12 noon will be accepted.

Sale day: 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

Page 2 guarantee you will be able to purchase that same book secondhand.

School Tours



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



VCE Studio Arts Photography Exhibition

VCE Studio Arts Photography Exhibition

From Somerville Secondary College students

Cube 37 Gallery - Frankston Arts Centre

Opening night Thursday 27th October from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

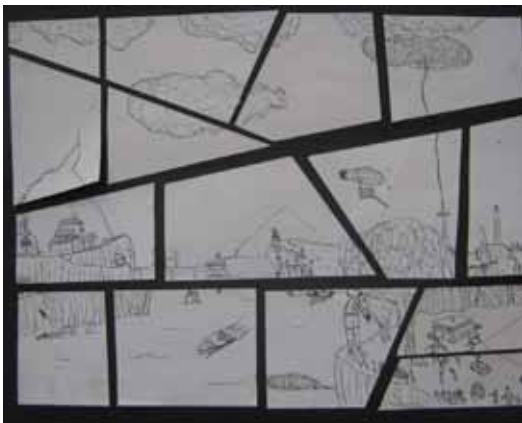
Tickets \$5 Adult - \$2:50 Concession available from College office

Bring the family along on opening night to view this impressive collection.

“Enigmatic - Vivid - Talented”



Art Gallery



Somerville Music - Brighter At Night

Last term students at Somerville SC were treated to a lunchtime music performance by visiting rock band, **Brighter at Night**. The band has been touring schools in the area in support of the charity Headspace. Headspace is a youth driven charity aimed at raising awareness of issues which affect teenagers and young adults.

The band gave an energetic performance, showing students what is possible to achieve if you work hard and follow your dreams. Free CDs and band merchandise were given to students and the band members happily answered questions from the students about their music and how they got to where they are now.

Instrumental music is a valued part of the co-curricular program at Somerville Secondary College and student performances are a regular feature of assemblies and school events. The program includes weekly lessons on guitar, drums, bass guitar or singing, and all students get to be part of a contemporary band. Any student who is interested in becoming part of the program needs to simply fill out an enrolment form and return it to the school reception.



- Features in our next Newsletter -

College Malaysian Trip - Our Athletics Triumph - Sausage Sizzle Fundraising success at Bunnings in Hastings and more!

Art Gallery



Canteen Exemption for Halloween

Most parents will be aware that the range of foods sold at school canteens has altered dramatically over recent years.

School canteens group foods into three categories

Green foods are those that you can eat daily – low fat, low sugar and low salt foods – in other words healthy foods.

Amber foods are those that you need to think about purchasing – the fats, salts and sugars in these foods are all higher than in green but eaten in moderation – perhaps once or twice a week are fine.

Red foods sit down the opposite end to green foods – often fatty, salty and/or sugary these are foods that you do not want to base your diet on. A lot of ‘fast foods’ fit into this list.

What canteens are allowed to do is offer “red foods” once a term. It is generally accepted that red foods eaten only once a term pose no significant health risk and that can be offered as a reward as a treat or just because they make us “feel good”.

This term Somerville Secondary College is offering students a red food day – on Friday 28th October. Because it is Halloween the food will have a red colour theme – red jellies and sodas and the like. We are advising parents of this day because red (food) days need to be signalled and because some parents are also concerned about red (colourings). The following is an extract from a US web site that perhaps provides some sage advice for those concerned about red colourings

“Now anecdotally, I have had plenty of parents “swear” to me that when their children eat foods with the colouring dyes in them, their children become hyperactive. But on the flip side, there are many children who appear to tolerate these food dyes without any behavioural concerns.

So while we wait for the FDA to make a determination on whether to ban these dyes, I have some simple and common sense-based advice for parents: if you feel eating foods or drinks with artificial food dyes leads to hyperactive behaviour in your children, don’t let them eat them. Furthermore, the foods/drinks that usually have the dyes are typically not the healthiest, so limiting their overall intake should be something parents are doing already.” (Dr. Jeremy F. Shapiro - Paediatrician)

http://www.dailystrength.org/health_blogs/dr-jeremy/

Friday 28th September



Friday 28th September



Halloween menu - Something to really sink your fangs into!

Finger Burgers

Slimy worms in a roll

Big toes

Steamed brains

Fried maggots

Spew Nachos

Dirty worms

Chocky blood muffins

Spider cookies

Bloody donuts

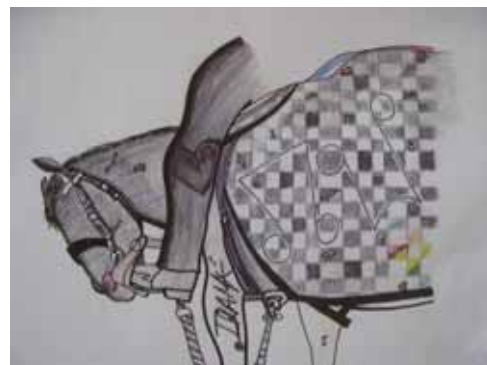
Caramel apples

Red blood punch



So good it will make you SCREAM for more!

Art Gallery



Community Announcements

National Symposium

Issues from the Frontline of Sexual Assault: Prevention, Protection and Recovery

Victoria University, Level 12, 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000

Wednesday 23rd November, Thursday 24th and Friday 25th November 2011

For further information, please contact:

Russ Pratt 0410 393 185 Russpratt.psychologist@gmail.com
Anita Kilkenny 0414 583 631 secretariat@vota.org.au
Jason Freeland 0430 530 125 Jason.freeland@jsfpsychology.com.au
Dale Tolliday 0408 330 560 DaleT@chw.edu.au

Nursery Apprenticeship

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Local Business (Baxter) established 25 years - Accredited Nursery

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Excellent conditions

Career opportunity

Year 9 pass

Must forward resume to Mrs Arnold



G'DAY USA PROGRAM

OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS



An opportunity exists for students at school to take part in a Cultural Exchange trip to the United States of America for twenty days in the January 2013 school holidays.

Destinations include: Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco. A feature of the tour is that the students spend ten days living with an American family and visit an American school. The cost is \$5,195.00*, from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane which include the following: airfares, transfers, accommodation, breakfasts, travel insurance and admissions to attractions.

Please see **Maryam** for more information or telephone E.W.T. Toll Free - 1800 337 930 or (03) 9882 8400

Art Gallery



Want a Challenge? Have an Adventure? Meet new Friends? Come and Join the Scouts!

As a Scout you can go camping and go on other outings, there are games and other activities that will give you a challenge and earn you rewards

Scouts are open to boys and girls between the ages of 6 to 26.

1st Somerville Scout Group invite you to one of our Scouting nights to give us a try,



Joey Scouts ages 6 to 8 – Tuesday Night 5.00 to 6.00

Cub Scouts ages 8 to 10 – Tuesday Night 7:00 to 8:30

Scouts ages 10 to 14 – Wednesday Night 7:00 to 9:00

Venturers ages 14 to 18 – Monday Night 7:30 to 9:30

Rovers ages 18 to 26 – Do not operate from Somerville



There is also openings to parents and adults wanting to help, why not become a leader for any one of these sections, there is full support and Nationally recognised training provided, So if you can provide few hours a week plus the odd weekend come along and give us a try

If you're interested please contact Group Leader Pat Campisi - Mobile: 0457 002 363

Email: gl.somerville1st@vicscouts.asn.au

: www.vicscouts.asn.au and find out more about Scouting



Pizza, Pathways and Job Options

@ Mt Eliza Village Neighbourhood Centre Inc.

FREE sessions - Open to all young people

WHEN:	Mondays 4.30-6.00 (Term 4 2011)
WHERE:	90-100 Canadian Bay Road, Mt Eliza 3930
WHAT TO BRING:	Yourself and a friend (if you want)
FURTHER DETAILS:	Marilyn Pelman-9787 8160
WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING:	We will eat Pizza and do anything that you need to get a career and job, such as:

Individualised Pathway and job options:

1. Find a job- full time, part time or school based apprenticeship.
2. Access to Practice aptitude testing-.Apprenticeship and military preparation
3. Career awareness
4. Apprenticeships- full time/ part-time and school based
5. Interview skills - for uni, TAFE and job interviews....

L EDUSKILL

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E EDUCATION

P Michelle Millard

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0419 376 926

Web: www.eduskill.com.au

Email: eduskill@hotmail.com

*Conditions Apply - Limit - 1 X PK9 Per Student

*Offer Valid To Current Student Card Holders & K2D

Eligibility - Offer Valid to December 31st 2011



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(03) 5978 0160

In Grateful acknowledgement of their very generous donation

To the College of sausages and bread for our Sausage Sizzle

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