The saying ‘walk a mile in someone else’s shoes…’ is very true. You just don’t realise what’s really involved until you actually experience something yourself.

As Chris indicated in previous newsletters, he is on Long Service Leave enjoying the lovely weather in England, Ireland and Wales. I have only been Acting Principal since the start of term, but I must say how much I am enjoying interacting with parents, students and teachers in a different role. It is exhausting and challenging, but also exhilarating.

I would like to introduce and welcome our new Maths teacher, Mrs Rhiannon Lowrey who started this term. She has already been involved with the staff in learning about and developing differentiated curriculum which was the focus of the recent Curriculum Day. Teachers worked hard and will now continue to create and develop a curriculum in line with AusVELS/National Curriculum that is tailored to the needs of each individual student. I do know that our students are very lucky to have teachers who are so professional, committed and passionate about providing the best possible outcomes for every student. Please make sure you read the letter in this newsletter outlining the introduction of AusVELS so you have an understanding of its implication for your son or daughter.

As you would be aware, after the visit and announcement by the Premier Denis Napthine, things are progressing with the design and building of the Trade Training Centre/Technical Education Centre. I have recently had meetings with Mark Freeman the architect from GrayPuksand regarding the floor design for the building so we are making progress towards the actual building of this centre. I will continue to keep you updated with news about the progress of this building.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our senior VCAL students in staging a really successful Super Duper Disco at the end of last term, for our feeder primary schools to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis in memory of one of our students Jake Keys who passed away last year from this disease. It was a fantastic night and great to see the primary school students enjoying themselves and dancing with abandon!

This term is a really important one because it is the time for planning for 2014. We have already held Information Night for parents and students to provide subject selection information in order that informed choices can be made. We have also held Course Counselling Evening for Year 10 students who need to now make a decision about their pathway for their senior years. I would like to acknowledge the work done by staff on a volunteer basis to ensure that these evenings are successful and productive for parents.

Students in Years 8-11 now have their Final Subject Selections sheets which need to be completed by Friday August 2nd. They are also required to return the signed Intention to Return slip which is vital for our planning. Accurate numbers are needed so we can offer the broadest curriculum possible.

I look forward to more of the daily challenges and planned events that Term Three will bring.

Lynn Motteram

Acting Principal
Traditionally Term Three is the busy term. In Week One the course selection process begins for next year. This gives students and their parents the opportunity to consider the direction they might like to follow in the years ahead. It also allows the school to construct individual learning pathways which can be tailored to the needs and interests of each individual. I urge you to read the course selection booklets carefully so that your decisions are informed and appropriate and to consult with teachers if a second opinion is required or clarification is needed. Our aim is always to seek the best solution in guiding each student towards the goals they set themselves.

Other activities this term include Cyber Safety Week in which students will be alerted to the risks associated with uninformed use of social media and steps they need to take to protect themselves from such dangers. Book Week will again celebrate the enormous contribution our library makes to the school as well as hosting a range of activities designed to encourage students in both reading and writing. Once again this year we will have a practising author visit the school to talk to the student body about his work. Year 9 have City Week to look forward to later in the term and we also have the VCAL urban camp and the school’s Malaysian tour taking place in the final week.

Term 3 also is when the Somerville Showcase Concert Gala takes place. This is an evening which celebrates the amazing range of talent our students have in music, drama and dance. It is also an opportunity for non-performing students to develop and refine skills relating to stage production in the audio and lighting areas which have vocational potential for a number of our students.

All in all the school continues to offer students countless opportunities to develop in areas outside those associated with the traditional classroom setting. Every term sees sporting teams competing in inter-school events, the Hands On Learning Program is now well established, instrumental music continues to nurture talent in those fields and we are constantly seeking community support to run clubs and interest groups for our students at lunchtime. As always the challenge for students is to make the most of every opportunity – we really do exist only to support the development of every individual. We have a wealth of talent, experience and resources on site and the desire to use them to support all of our students as they proceed towards their post-secondary years. Like every parent, we want the best for our students and will always make every effort to achieve this.

Jamie Robertson
Assistant Principal

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

Jamie Robertson
Assistant Principal
Admin Matters

Keep in touch with tiqbiz

Tiqbiz is an easy to use app designed to allow Somerville Secondary College to communicate directly to parents on their phones, tablets and computers. It will send messages, newsletters and has a calendar of events.

Most importantly it will send ‘push notifications’ to your phone to alert you to any urgent messages or information updates. This app will make you instantly aware of any important news or notification, for example, if we have to change a sports day through poor weather, or if a bus is delayed back from a camp or excursion, you will be alerted immediately.

We hope that all parents and students who have either an iPhone or Smartphone will download this free app as we endeavour to improve our communication with our families.

A brochure is attached to this newsletter which clearly shows how to get started. If you have any problems doing this, the staff at tiqbiz are more than happy to help you. Call 9800 1489 between 8.30am and 5.30pm weekdays or email team@tiqbiz.com

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Or email: somerville.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au
Implementation of the Australian Curriculum in Victoria

All Australian States and Territories have been working with the Commonwealth Government since 2008 to develop a new Australian Curriculum. The States and Territories have agreed on many areas of the curriculum, however, there are some important differences in the ways it will be implemented. These differences include the timing of the introduction of the new curriculum and certain aspects of the content of the new curriculum.

The new curriculum for Foundation (Prep) to Year 10 in Victoria is known as AusVELS. This represents the integration of the new Australian Curriculum subjects into the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). VELS was the previous Victorian curriculum framework used by schools.

The implementation of AusVELS began in 2013. This included the introduction of the first four Australian Curriculum subjects, English, History, Mathematics and Science and the rest of the learning areas taken from VELS.

Parents and students will notice only small changes because of the similarities between the Australian Curriculum subjects and the previous Victorian curriculum. For example, in the AusVELS English curriculum, there is slightly more emphasis on grammar, and more specific content is included in the AusVELS History curriculum. In some areas of Mathematics and Science, the VELS curriculum was more demanding than the Australian Curriculum. Where this was the case, the higher Victorian standards have been maintained in AusVELS.

Student achievement for Foundation–10 English, History, Mathematics and Science will now be reported against the new achievement standards.

At the senior secondary level, the introduction of the Australian Curriculum will have no impact on the delivery of VCAL or VCE.

Studies in the VCE in the learning areas of English, History, Mathematics and Science will be reviewed as part of the normal review process. These reviews will include consideration of both the Australian Curriculum senior secondary subjects and subjects from leading international jurisdictions. This will ensure that Victorian students continue to have access to the highest quality senior secondary education. Revised studies in the VCE will not be implemented until 2016.

On Thursday the 27th of June Somerville Secondary College Senior VCAL students organised a ‘Super Duper Disco’ for the local primary school students. The event was successful, with over 150 tickets sold. This event was planned to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis as we sadly lost a class mate last year to the condition. Before we started planning the disco we spent a lot of time in the classroom learning about the effects of the condition. We have contacted the Royal Children’s Hospital and 65 Roses Foundation, as the money raised will be donated to the Royal Children’s hospital, Cystic Fibrosis research department. With the assistance of the Somerville Men’s Shed, we have also created a memorial platform in the wetlands connected to our school. This term we are planning a 65km bike ride from the school to Mordialloc and back. Finally, we have organised a ‘Sport’s Dress Day’ for students to dress up in their favourite sports team colours, as Jake was passionate about a whole range of sports. We hope to raise awareness of the condition amongst the school community and raise as much money as we can to donate to research.

Alana
VCAL
Our LOTE students are pictured here with their Language Perfect Achievement Certificates. They have good reason to be proud of themselves. Over 160,000 questions were answered over the course of ten days, with Somerville students honouring their College by helping us become one of the leading schools in Victoria in Language Perfect. Congratulations to all participating students, and to Ms Holman for inspiring, organising, promoting, administering and creating such a buzz about this program that the whole College got involved!

The music department is pleased to announce the arrival of 20 new acoustic guitars. The guitars have been purchased to enable an entire class to participate in music at the same time. We are looking forward to the guitars making an appearance in school performances in the near future.

There are still places available for any student to join the music program. We have places available to play guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboard or singing. If any student wishes to join they simply need to ask for an enrolment form from the office.
Congratulations to Rachel from 7A for winning the Mathew Richardson’s Richmond Jersey. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fundraiser. Stay tuned for more news about Somerville Secondary College adopting a tiger!

Helena Anggraeni
LOTE

The good news is that Christmas has just been sorted!
The Somerville Secondary College Fund Raiser Committee has booked a shopping tour through ELITE for Saturday 12th October. The cost will be $60 per person. This will cover the following:

Morning tea - a two course luncheon at The Pumphouse in Fitzroy - and afternoon treats (to keep us all going!)

Pick up at 7:30am from Somerville Secondary College bus pickup point - returning at approximately 7:30pm

Some of the outlets include:

- Puma Factory - Beaches - Diana Ferrari - Candy Stripes Australia - Natio - Bambi’s Imports - Classica Kitchens
- Ottoman Emporium - choice of either Social Club Books or Planet Surf -

Full payments must be in by Friday 6th September - Book early to avoid waving goodbye to the bus as it drives off!
Chicken Fillets $6.99 per Kg (mention this ad)
Premium Mince $5.99 per Kg (mention this ad)
*Offer valid until stock runs out.

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