**Principal’s Report—March 22nd, 2010**

I would like to thank the parents and staff who nominated to be members of the School Council in the recent election process. The School Council fulfills an extremely important role in the life of the school, setting policy across areas from fees and charges to uniforms. Membership of the school council gives parents and students a genuine voice in the direction of the college. Congratulations to Mrs Tracey Thornell, Mrs Dianne Elliott and Mr John Bookless as successful return council members. Welcome to Mrs Vickie Burke and Mr Craig Mann as new school councillors. I would also like to congratulate the two school captains who officially became community members of the council at its first meeting on March 17th. The full council membership is now Mrs Deb Hollands (President), Mrs Tracey Thornell (Vice President), Mrs Dianne Elliott (Treasurer), Mrs Jacqueline Jobling, Mrs Vickie Burke, Mr David McKinney, and Mr Craig Mann – parent members – Mr Chris Lloyd (Executive Officer), Mr John Bookless, Mrs Sue Carran and Mr Peter Pavey – DEECD members – Miss Madeline Mooney and Mr Jordan Turnbull – Community members.

I would also like to welcome Miss Dayna Brett our newest member of the teaching staff. Miss Brett was successful in gaining her position, teaching English and Humanities, against a very strong field of over thirty applicants.

Parents visiting the school will notice the absence of Mrs Sara Hyde at the office front desk. Sara has been successful in gaining a promotion position at Tyabb Primary School. Sara has been the welcoming face of the office to parents and visitors for over three years. We wish Sara well in her new position.

A number of parents have been in communication with the school regarding shelter for students waiting for buses. I am pleased to be able to announce that the Department of Transport have agreed to construct two bus shelters at the front of the college. The shelters will be constructed and installed during Term Two. I would like to thank Mornington Peninsula Shire for their support in this process.

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**Dates to Remember**

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<td>Open Night</td>
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Tuesday March 23rd is our annual Open Night. Tours and activities will be running from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. I encourage all parents to visit the school and take a guided or self-guided tour. The vast majority of the school will be open with displays from all Key Learning Areas. This is a valuable opportunity to speak with the students and teachers about school programs and opportunities and I encourage all parents to make the most of the opportunity.

Parent / Teacher interviews will be conducted during the first week of Term Two on Thursday April 15th from 4:00 – 8:00 pm. Reports will be posted home on Thursday March 25th. Enclosed with each report will be an interview booking sheet. Normally students make bookings with teachers, using the booking sheet, on behalf of their parents. If this is not possible please contact the college to arrange interviews.

Term Two begins with two significant programs for students in Years 9 and 10. Year 9 students participate in City Week – a fantastic educational program which exposes students to the City of Melbourne as an educational precinct. Year 10 students participate in Structured Workplace Learning (Work Experience). Both these programs are conducted during Week 2 of Term Two. I encourage all parents to support the school in the provision of these two excellent learning opportunities for students. City Week costs $75 which covers all activities and travel costs for the four day program.

Finally I would like to wish all students, staff and their families a safe and restful autumn school break. School resumes on April 12th at 8:30 am.

Chris Lloyd
In recent times there has been considerable publicity surrounding the issue of student safety in schools and in particular, the effect of unwelcomed actions by other students on the welfare of individual students. Like many schools we have a very clear “Hands Off” policy that is regularly communicated to all staff and students and for the most part this has been highly effective in maintaining a safe environment, however we are committed to continually improving the school environment for our students.

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all students, we have addressed students on this issue at a whole school assembly and shown a current song and accompanying movie clip that illustrates the impact of these unwanted behaviours.

Students have also been informed that a whole school confidential survey will be administered to every Year 7-10 class that will provide us with additional information about the safety of our environment. In this survey students are asked to specifically identify incidents where they have been made to feel uncomfortable or unsafe by the words or actions of specific students.

Once the results of this survey are collated, we will then work with those students who have been identified as creating difficulties for other students through the way they relate to them. Often these students are unaware of the impact of their actions on other students, so we will work with them to modify and improve their behaviours and interactions with others.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Lynn Motteram
Wellbeing Leader

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**Excursions – Return of Forms and Money**

Could we please ask that payment & permission forms are returned to the College well before the date of the excursion. Planning these events involves paying venue deposits etc. and it is crucial that we know numbers of students well before the day. We never like to cancel these events but this may occur if numbers are not met.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

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**Get Connected at Somerville SC Library on Open Night!**

As part of our community connections, the Library will be highlighting the resources available to our students through membership of Mornington Peninsula Libraries.
Harcourts Somerville

PROUD SPONSOR OF

Somerville Secondary College

Harcourts Somerville has just entered into a partnership with your School

Benefits

We DONATE 20% of our sales commission when Harcourts Somerville has Sold and Settled a property referred to us by your student's family, staff or friends and associates

It's that simple!

On an average this means every $350,000 Sale would generate an approximate Donation of $7000 to your college

Over the year if we sell just 7 referred homes, Harcourts Somerville can proudly generate an approximate $13,000 DONATION for your School

Open to friends, student's family and staff members

This is a great opportunity and simple way to support your school

Support us and the team at HARCOURTS SOMERVILLE can PROUDLY SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

Let us work together as a community

This opportunity is open to any-one willing to support the school and see it grow in the future!

Please contact Peter Mussared or Chrissy Kouvaras on 5973 1111

On Tuesday March 16th, St.Kilda players visited Somerville Secondary College as part of the AFL Schools Programs.

St.Kilda's gun small forward Stephen Milne and newest rookie Mark Hutchins participated in the Football Clinic.

The players were very impressed with the College's new ‘high tech' Soccer Field which has just recently become available for hire. The bouncy turf gave the Saint players a great feel and they joined in with the lunchtime students with some soccer kicks for goal. Mark Hutchins showed some very fancy foot skills with the soccer ball and Milne still couldn't resist the snap for goal...even though the ball was round, he didn't miss the target. The clinic with the Year Sevens was a great success and we look forward to the AFL Players visit in 2011.

AFL G Footy School Ambassador

Sue Beggs
Did You Know????

You can view tomorrow’s daily bulletin from home before you leave in the morning!!
Never miss a cut off date again!!
Notices for excursions, sporting events, permission slips will be shown as reminders on our website.
Parents can check for events and program dates and times.

www.somervilleac.vic.edu.au

Brotherhood of St Laurence-Saver Plus matched savings program
HELPING VICTORIANS SAVE

Saver Plus is a nationally-recognised program that pays people $1 for every $1 you save (up to $500) to help pay for education. By joining Saver Plus you could receive $500 to help pay for school items like computers, community activities, books and uniforms.

The program is Australia's first matched savings program, designed to help families achieve a savings goal, establish a long-term saving habit and pay for education. It has been recognised by the government and received a Prime Minister's award.

To be eligible you must have:

- A child attending school in 2010-2011, or be intending to attend vocational training yourself in 2010-2011.
- A current health care card or pension card and
- Regular form of paid employment (yourself or partner).

Please contact Nicole Street at Brotherhood of St Laurence on 8781 5932 or email nstreet@bsl.org.au