

The Somerville Source

News from Somerville Secondary College



AUGUST 16TH 2013 #09

Acting Principal's Report— 16th August 2013

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It's hard to believe we are nearly half way through the term. There is a lot going on with a lot of people working very hard to ensure the best outcomes for our students.

ES Staff Month

The month of August is officially ES (Education Support) Staff Month which gives us a chance to pause and reflect on the myriad roles performed by our support staff. We have Office Administration, Daily Organisation and Attendance, Business Manager, Library Technician, IT Managers, Property and Grounds, Lab Tech, Food Tech, Youth Worker, Teacher Assistant, Integration Aides... all important and necessary roles in a school. Much of the work is done behind the scenes so it is easy to forget the integral roles they play to support staff, students and parents. So, let's stop to recognise, acknowledge and thank these staff members for the wonderful contribution they make to our school.

An Invitation to Government House

Catherine Arnold, our VCE/VET/VCAL/Careers Coordinator has received an impressive looking gold embossed invitation to Government House for the announcement and presentation of the State Junior Landcare Team Awards. Catherine has tirelessly led the team of VCAL students and staff in developing the wetlands area which is recognised by the United Nations as a World Heritage site as part of the Western Port Biosphere. We wish her luck, but regardless of awards, she has done a fabulous job and deserves the honour of the nomination.

Trade Training Centre/Technical Education Centre

Progress on this project is ramping up with almost weekly meetings with the architect from Graypuksand. We now have a working diagram of the floor plan, space allocations and some fittings. I wish to stress that this is a fantastic opportunity for the school as this is quite a unique project as the only TEC built on the grounds of a secondary school. This is our building that will be used by our students in Years 7-12. Junior and senior students will have access to state of the art facilities in a professionally accredited technical education and trade training centre. Our students and students from other schools will come to complete Certificate 1 & 2 in Plumbing or Building and Construction, Electrical Trades, Design or Fashion Design.

Cyber Safety Week

Thank you to Diedre O'Loughlin, teacher librarian for initiating Cyber Safety Week. The week comprised a range of activities designed to raise awareness of how to stay safe in an online world. Responsible digital citizenship is a vital element for our students as technology becomes an integral part of their lives. Junior students also attended a presentation by Hastings Police which outlined the legalities of online activities.

Dates to Remember



Friday 16th August

Conclusion to National Science Week

Tuesday 20th to 22nd August

BOOK WEEK - Visit from Author Jack Heath on 20th

Tuesday 20th August

Sports Dress Day

Wednesday 21st August

Math Olympiad - Yr 7 & 8

Monday 26th August

Indonesian Week

Friday 6th September

SSC Showcase

Lynn Motteram

Acting Principal

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Assistant Principal's Report

As I write this the school is a hive of activity.

The Year 11 students are undertaking the "Fit to Drive" program, part of the sequence of training provided from Years Ten to Twelve designed to produce responsible drivers and safe road users.

The Aerobics girls in Years Seven & Eight are preparing to leave to compete in the state finals, an activity they have been training for in the mornings before school, for many weeks.

In the Wetlands precinct we have just completed the planting of over 5000 native species designed to return this area to its natural state. Invasive grasses and blackberries have been sprayed and several hundred cubic metres of mulch has been spread. Most exciting is the news that the area is being visited by bird species not seen here since the school was established, A stunning observation deck has been erected overlooking one of the standing water areas and plans are being finalised for a board walk development to create improved access.

VCAL students from year 11 continue running activities to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis research in honour of Jake Keys who succumbed to this terrible disease late last year. Following on from the success of their Primary School Disco, they have organised a Sports Dress Day for Tuesday next week which we hope the whole school will participate in.

Selected Junior School students are about to engage in the in the computer based Lexile program which is designed to reinforce basic English grammar skills in an engaging and entertaining manner.

Rehearsals are underway at lunchtimes for dancers involved with the Gala Showcase Concert evening taking place later this term. Actors and musicians are also honing their skills in their respective areas for this event.

Today a number of Year Eight and nine students are going to Frankston to take part in "TAFE Tasters". These are hands-on classes designed to give young people a practical introduction to the range of career training courses available to them in the years ahead.

Hair and Beauty, Plumbing, Electrical and Building Construction are just a few of the activities on offer along with Computer Gaming Design, an area which is becoming increasingly popular. Another such session will be held later in the year for those who did not attend this time or who would like to try another field.

It is also encouraging to report that smoking by students at the school has almost totally disappeared. The pressure for this change has come from the vast majority of students who are non-smokers and who resent having their space polluted by the few that are. Their response has been to apply pressure to smokers via Facebook and social media where they express their views with great clarity, force and effectiveness. The terrific outcome from the community point of view, is the number of students who have stopped smoking all together, or at the very least, while they are at school.

The physical and mental health of our students is a primary focus of our school and support is available for every student no matter what the issue. Not only do we have a wealth of experience and expertise on site but we are also able to access support from a wide range of specialist outside bodies, usually at little or no cost to students or their families.

Our school may well be small in size but it is clearly punching well above its weight in terms of the work staff put in for the students. Be it academic, sporting, social, personal or cultural, the opportunities and support for our students is equal with the best.

Jamie Robertson

Assistant Principal



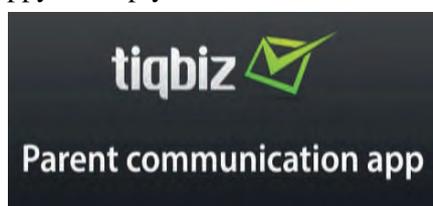
Keep in touch with tiqbiz

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



DISPENSING OF PARACETAMOL (PANADOL):

Under DEECD guidelines, Somerville Secondary College will no longer supply paracetamol to students. If a student requires this medication, the office staff will ring home requesting it be brought in by a parent or alternatively request that the child is collected from sick bay.

DISPENSING OF OTHER MEDICATIONS:

Other medications that may be required on an emergency basis or administered daily (excluding Asmol & EpiPen) must be given to the office noting the following:

- Written advice providing directions of appropriate storage & administration
- Must be in the original bottle, container or packaging
- Clearly labelled with student's name
- Dosage and time to be administered
- Within its expiry date

Note: Medication to treat Asthma or Anaphylaxis does not need written authority as above as it is covered in the student's health plan.

ASTHMA PLANS

If you are a parent/guardian of a child with asthma, you would have received a letter requesting that you complete an 'Action Plan' which needed to be signed off by your family doctor and returned to the College, no later than 30 July. If this applies to you and you have not already done so can you provide us with the plan as soon as possible.

If your child's condition has changed since enrolment and they may no longer suffer from this condition or any other medical condition you may have listed, could you please notify the school to enable us to remove the flagged 'medical condition' from our system.

La Trobe Review

On the 26th of July, a group of students and professors from La Trobe University visited our school and gave Years 9, 10 and 11 information about the Indonesian program at university. We learnt a lot about the transition from Year 12 into university but mostly gained an understanding of what continuing to learn the language can offer in the future. They presented a short film of students' previous experiences in the Indonesian program and introduced us to a number of games and other cultural activities. Some of these included eating a tapioca cracker tied to a piece of string without using our hands. Another was tying a pencil to a piece of string around our waist behind our back and trying to get it in a bottle. They also set up an activity where each student was given a profession but the only way they could find out what it was, was by asking other students questions in Indonesian. These activities were hilarious and we all really got a taste of Indonesian entertainment.



We also introduced our visitors to some of the games we play in class such as 'Ular Kata' (Word Snake) and 'Sebelas' (Eleven). Overall, we were very delighted to welcome our visitors from La Trobe university into our school and we thank them for teaching us a number of things about Indonesia and its culture.

Beth and Sarah

Students Say Smoking Sucks!

Smoking is now socially taboo at Somerville Secondary College

Most students at our College do not smoke, and find the habit repulsive. They are reclaiming areas of the school where smokers used to congregate and are letting the dwindling number of smokers know that their smelly habit will not be tolerated!

Some quotes from students on smoking...

"It's easy to pick out a smoker, their hair and clothes stink!" (Year 7 anonymous)

"Smokers are so dumb! They can't do sport properly and they are always trying to borrow money." (Year 9)

"My grandpa died from smoking.. It will happen to smokers too."

"I would never date a smoker. They are bogan!"

Peer pressure is proving more effective than any other initiative that has been tried. The College has a zero tolerance approach to smoking and offenders face suspension if caught. So the message to any smoker in the school now is; It isn't worth it.

You will get caught.



Year 8 Sport

Our Year Eight Table Tennis team represented our College this week at the Southern Metro District Table Tennis Tournament held at Mornington Secondary College.

Ms Jo Brown who has been coaching the team was full of praise for her valiant crew who came third in their division.

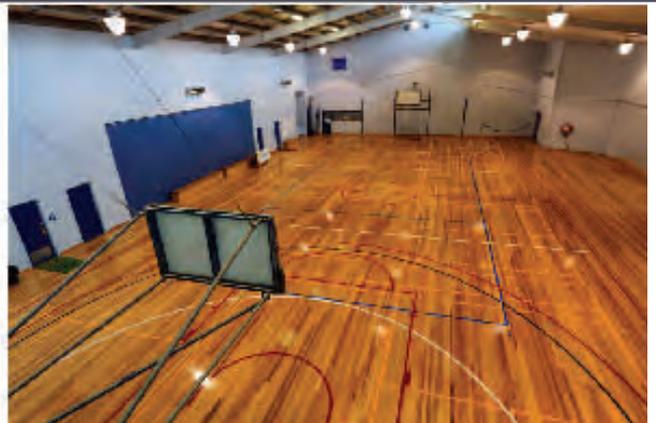
Congratulations to Jesse for his great win!

The boys were a credit to Somerville Secondary and displayed great sportsmanship.

Well done to Jesse, Trae, Aiden and Lachlan



Our Fabulous Facilities



GYMNASIUM & SOCCER PITCH FOR HIRE

Our gymnasium and FIFA certified soccer pitch with running track are for hire weekdays from 3.30pm onwards, weekends and school holidays.

For hire rates and information, please contact Wendy Eames,
College Business Manager on 5973 1011
Or email : somerville.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

College Tours



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

Thank you,



Critical Agendas Seminars

Dear Parents

Please be advised that we have secured the services of **Dr Michael Carr-Gregg** and **Dr Ian Lillico** to deliver a series of parent seminars in relation to raising teenagers. These sessions are targeted at parents and teachers of boys or girls. Teachers attending will be issued with a certificate of participation for **2 PD Hours**.

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg presents [How to Raise Happy and Resilient GIRLS !](#) 7pm to 9pm

August 26th, 2013 Lowther Hall, 17 Leslie Rd, Essendon

As Australia's most high profile adolescent psychologist, **Dr. Michael Carr-Gregg** draws on the latest psychological research to deliver the key skills, knowledge and strategies needed by parents and teachers caring for teenage girls in 2013. He will focus on the latest research on how to create happy and resilient girls and will host a Q&A session at the end. Cost \$20

Secure your place! Email rick@criticalagendas.com.au Include your **NAME**, and **No. Tickets** required.

Collect and pay for tickets on the night (No EFTPOS).

Dr Ian Lillico presents [Understanding Adolescent Boys !](#) 7pm to 9pm

August 19th, 2013 Parade College 1436 Plenty Rd Bundoora **OR** September 4th, 2013 Salesian College 10 Bosco St, Chadstone

This presentation covers **boys** at home and at school. It gives parents and teachers strategies to help **boys** in their growth into adults and compares childhood and adolescence. The role of parents and the teacher, nature and other factors impacting on boys' success are explained. Cost **\$10**

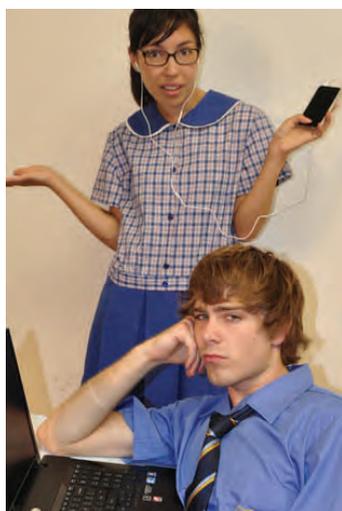
Secure your place! Email rick@criticalagendas.com.au Include your **NAME**, **Date attending** and **No. Tickets** required.

Collect and pay for tickets on the night (No EFTPOS).

Critical Agendas

Ph 1800 638 012

www.criticalagendas.com.au



On Friday 23rd August Brainstorm Productions will be presenting the play Cyberia for Year 7-10 students, a play that highlights some of the complex issues surrounding the misuse of technology and the damage caused by cyber bullying. This is an entertaining way to promote discussion and to give the students guidelines about what constitutes cyber bullying, the effects of too much screen time and violent computer games, internet safety, digital citizenship and protecting our on-line reputation.

This show will assist in creating a safe harmonious environment for students and staff at school and online. For more information about the company follow this link or go to

www.brainstormproductions.edu.au

Maryam Gharchbaghi

Student Welfare Officer

Community Announcements



Volunteer Family Support Programs

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Parents Make a Difference

How to Help Your Child Step From Primary School to Secondary School

This session focuses on:

- Positive Communication Between Parents and Teenagers
- Helping Your Child And Family Cope With The Transition From Primary To Secondary School
- Tips And Strategies To Stay On Top Of Increased Workloads
- The Developmental Changes Children Experience During This Phase

Date: Tuesday 27th August

Time: 5.00pm – 7.30pm

(Dinner Provided @ 5.00, Session Starts @ 5.30)

Venue: Western Port Secondary College

201-215 High Street Hastings

Bookings Essential:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/westernportsc

By Fri 9th Aug

Enquiries call Robyn: 5975 2445

This event is open to the whole community

Child Minding available – please book children in when you register

Presentation from Angie Wilcock

Angie is a highly regarded Australian expert and speaker on transitions in education. She has appeared on TV (Mornings with Kerrie-Anne and the Today Show) and radio, she works with parents, students and teachers Australia-wide on coping with the changes in high school. She is a published author with a strong background in teaching, as well as being a mum of two sons. Her sessions are a mix of humour, anecdotes, information, real-life parenting...but above all, strategies to support families during this very critical phase of education and personal development. Her new book, 'The Transition Tiltropics', supports parents in understanding this new phase of education...and life!

FREE

Information Session for Families, Carers, Interested Persons.
Includes light dinner and childminding



Registration Day

Pearcedale Cricket Club

Wednesday 14th August 3.30-7.30pm

At the clubrooms (Pearcedale Rec reserve)

Phone Mitch Andrew 0437918806 or Julie Campbell 0407325061 for more details

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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!

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Facebook: The Pink Wheelbarrow

I am a qualified primary teacher

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