

# The Somerville Source

News from Somerville Secondary College



MAY 15TH 2019: # 03

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### "Testing Times" NAPLAN

During the period May 14 – May 17 all students in Years 7 & 9 (with a small number of exceptions) are taking part in the annual NAPLAN tests in the 3R's. This year a large number of schools have been moved onto the Online version of NAPLAN but a majority of schools are still using the paper based version of the tests. Students will be completing tests in Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation), Writing, Reading Comprehension and Numeracy (with and without access to a calculator). Parents will receive a report early in Term 3 detailing their son's or daughter's performance against the National Standards. The school receives more detailed access to question by question information which will allow our teachers to better understand the areas in which our students need additional support and the areas that they clearly have already mastered.

### GAT – General Achievement Test

Any student completing a Unit 3/4 sequence of studies (a year 12 subject) is required to sit for the GAT, scheduled for June 12 from 10:00 to 13:15. The GAT is used by the VCAA to verify and moderate internal coursework scores and to ensure the accuracy of examination marking at the end of the year. The GAT is very important in the process of moderating school coursework scores and it is essential that all appropriate students attempt the GAT to the best of their ability. Students (and hence parents) will receive detailed feedback in December on their performance on the GAT against three areas: (i) Written Communication, (ii) Mathematics, Science & Technology and (iii) Arts & Social Sciences. The scores are reported out of 40, 35 and 35 respectively. A flier will be sent home with each student undertaking a Unit 3/4 sequence by the end of this week. Parents who want to know more information about the GAT should use the flier as a first point of reference. The GAT is a long examination (180 minutes plus reading time) so students need to be prepared for the long haul. Having an unlabeled drink bottle containing water is a good first step. Students should also ensure they have access to an appropriate dictionary. A calculator is not required and mobile phones and computers are banned from being taken into the examination centre.

As with all VCAA examinations, the GAT is supervised by external invigilators rather than school staff. All students are expected to complete the GAT to the best of their ability.

### Annual Report to the Community

The 2018 Annual Report to the Community is now available for download from the school website. Detailed information on student attitudes, student performance and financial performance is available via the report. If you have any questions about the annual report – please do not hesitate to contact the college to seek clarification.

### District Athletics

Well done to the students from our college who represented us so well in the recent District Athletics Carnival at Ballam Park. As a principal of a Secondary College I had the pleasure of congratulating students who "placed" in each event – including students from our own college. Congratulations to all the participants from Somerville and good luck to Miranda as she proceeds onto the next level of competition, having achieved two gold medals from the recent event.

Continued next page...

## Dates To Remember



**Monday 13th-17th May**  
*Year 10 Work Experience*

**Tuesday 14th-16th May**  
*NAPLAN*

**Monday 20th May**  
*Senior Boys Football*

**Monday 20th May**  
*Senior Girls Netball*

**Monday 20th May**  
*Spelling Bee starts! (Prizes)*

**Thursday 23rd May**  
*SPD Cross Country*



# Principal's Report Continued / AP Report

## School Board/Council

The composition of our School Board at Somerville Secondary College is 7 Parents, 4 Students and 4 Staff (including the Principal) – all with voting rights. Recently a vacancy in the Parent Electorate was created by the resignation of our Treasurer Vanessa Scott. On behalf of the School Board I would like to thank Vanessa for her contribution to the board over the last few years as a parent member and as the Treasurer.

Vanessa's resignation creates a vacancy for a parent member of the college with a two-year term. If any parent is interested in having more input into the college and a better understanding of how the college operates, I strongly encourage them to contact me at the college on 5973 1000 to self-nominate for the position. No ballot is required as this is a casual vacancy. Alternatively, parents can contact me via the school email address

[somerville.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:somerville.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au) to express interest in the vacancy or get some more information. The School Board meets roughly twice per term (three times this term), usually on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting of the School Board is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> at 18:45.

*Chris Lloyd.*      Principal



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

As this is the first newsletter for the term I thought it an ideal time to discuss attendance and the importance of regularly attending school in order for all of our young people to succeed academically and ensure that they don't fall behind socially nor developmentally.

Right now, being at school is your child's most important job and they're building habits that they will take into adulthood. While it might not seem obvious, when they come to school they are learning about more than just Maths and English. They're learning all sorts of skills like working in teams and meeting deadlines that will help when they're an adult. If they can't show up to school every day, how will they learn to show up for work?

Being at school every day also means they are involved in their own learning, interacting with other students and teachers and are a part of environment that is motivating and stimulating. Our students can get help from their teachers and friends and won't have to rely on trying to learn things on their own.

*“Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12, or an equivalent qualification, have:      better health outcomes—better employment outcomes - higher incomes across their lives.”      DET Website, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018*

## Top attendance tips for parents

We want to work in partnership with parents—act early if you have any concerns by contacting the school and asking for advice and support.

Remember that every day counts.

Act early if you have concerns about your child's attendance and connectedness to school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness.

Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day.

Open and prompt communication with us about all absences is very important.

Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term.

Help your child maintain daily routines such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.

Don't let your child stay home unless genuinely sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

Reward appropriate behaviour and don't unintentionally reward unwanted behaviour by letting children who stay home have access to their devices and the internet.

# School F E E S

If you are unable to pay your College fees in full, we are more than happy to discuss the option of a payment plan. By doing this you can make regular payments (weekly, fortnightly or monthly) at a cost that is affordable to you. It is advisable that you sign up to a payment plan as soon as possible to ensure that your payments can be spread over a longer period of time, making them more affordable to you.

We have various options available:

1. Centrepay—If you receive a family allowance or pension payments from Centrelink every fortnight, you can elect to have an amount deducted from your payment. This payment will come to us every fortnight. There are no fees involved for you.
2. Credit/Debit Card—We will deduct the agreed amount through our EFTPOS facilities here at the College. All you need to do is provide your card number, expiry date and complete the Authority Form and we will do the rest.

If you would like to commence a payment plan, please feel free to call the College and speak with one of our Admin staff who can go through the options with you. Phone: 5973 1000

***CSEF applications are still being accepted. If you have a Health Care Card (Concession) please complete a form at the office to receive the allowance..***

\*\*\* Note for parents regarding leaving school unwell.

If your child contacts you by phone while they are in class to advise they are not well could you please support us by advising your child that they should let their teacher know they are unwell. The teacher will then give them a note to take to sick bay. The office staff will attend to them and call you if required.

Thank you for supporting us so we can ensure your child's safety by knowing where they are at all times.

# Annual Student Survey



## Annual Somerville Secondary College Student Attitude to School Survey

### WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

At Somerville Secondary College we value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing, and quality instruction, and are conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school. The Attitudes to School Survey is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

Students from Year 7 to 12 at our school will participate in the survey. Your child will complete the survey online during school hours using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way “testing” your child. Your child has the right to refuse or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during, or after completion of the survey.

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only. All responses to the survey are kept anonymous in the response file. Personal identification data will not be recorded in the survey response file. This ensures that the confidentiality of your child's responses is protected at all times.

This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school over the period Monday 20 May to Friday 7 June. The survey only takes up to 20 minutes to complete and occurs during your child's class time.

The survey results will be reported back to the school by the beginning of Term 3. All survey data that is made available in reports are for groups of students only so that no individual student can be identified. Data suppression rules are used for schools with low student numbers per year level.

Summaries of student responses will be distributed via the school newsletter to the school community and will be shared with students via student forums at the school. Summary information will be formally shared with the community via the annual report to the community as per normal procedures.

If you would like more information, please speak to the College Principal or Assistant Principal or visit: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/improvement/Pages/performsurveyat.aspx>

# SSC Athletics Day Results

On Tuesday 2 April we held the SSC Athletics Carnival on the school Pitch/Athletics Track. In sunny conditions, students came dressed in RED, YELLOW, GREEN and BLUE to support the four houses Eramosa (Red), Jones (Yellow), Graf (Green) and Coolart (Blue).

## OVERALL RESULTS

1<sup>st</sup> Graf (917 points)

2<sup>nd</sup> Eramosa (722 points)

3<sup>rd</sup> Coolart (610 points)

4<sup>th</sup> Jones (413 points)

## Congratulations to our 2019 Age Group Champions

13yo Female (Track) – Chelsea A

13yo Female (Field) – Madisyn Q

13yo Male (Track) – Haydn C

13yo Male (Field) – Cameron T

14yo Female (Track) – Miranda H

14yo Female (Field) – Bridget C

14yo Male (Track and Field) – Isaiah P

15yo Female (Track + Field) – Caity S

15yo Male (Track) – Jai B and Matthew W

15yo Male (Field) – Coban B

16yo Female (Track + Field) – Sky G

16yo Male (Track) – Sebastian H

16yo Male (Field) – Traye G

17yo Female (Field) – Chloe H

17yo Male (Track) – Michael W

17yo Male (Field) – Aiden F

18yo Female (Track + Field) – Angelica H

18yo Male (Track) – Josh D

18yo Male (Field) – Drew H

Good Luck to all of our Athletes that will represent SSC at SPD Athletics!



*Sophie Angus*

**Sport Coordinator**

**HPE Key Learning Area Head**

**HPE and VCAL Teacher**



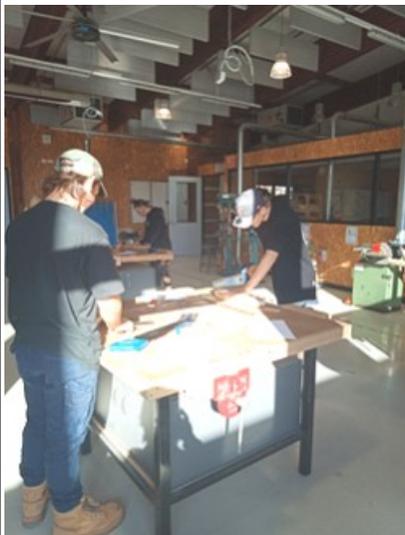
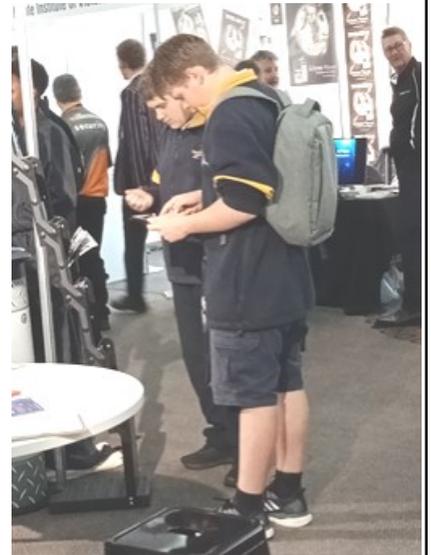
## Careers - Good Job!



### VCE & Careers Expo – Caulfield Racecourse 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

85 students from across Year 10 -12 caught the train to Caulfield Racecourse to attend the southern hemispheres largest Careers Expo. The students were able to speak with representatives from Universities and TAFE's, Apprenticeship services and other Industry groups. On level 3 students had access to a range of seminars including "Picking your Year 10 subjects", "Pathways to Medicine" and lots of exam preparation advice for our Year 12's. The students returned home on the train loaded up with Course guides, pens, thongs (yes, thongs!) and other goodies they collected whilst moving around the expo.

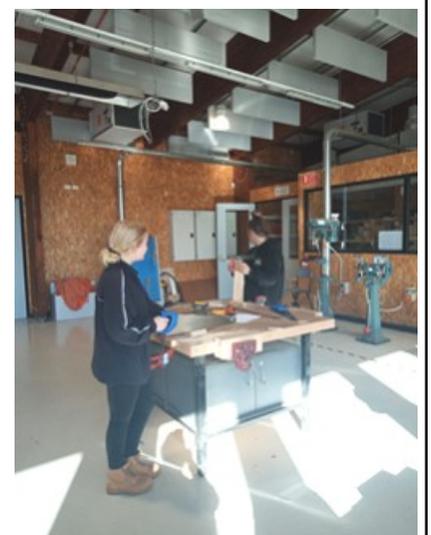
A good day was had by staff and students alike.



### Certificate II Construction Pathways

After spending 8 weeks of Term 1 completing classroom based tasks, such as OHS and Reading and Interpreting Plans the students enrolled in the Certificate II Construction Pathways course were finally allowed to put their knowledge learned so far into practice. Students found out very quickly that it is very hard to make a square cut on a piece of timber using a handsaw.

The photos show how happy they were to get out of the classroom regardless of how many times Jeff (their Trainer) sent them back to do it again. Practice makes perfect!



*Amy Joseph*

Careers & VET Coordinator

# Industry Immersion Experience Program



I thought our trip for the Industry Immersion Experience Program was fun and exciting. The trip taught me about what economists do and that being an economist isn't just money. Today I particularly liked looking at the graphs where we had to work out what the graphs were for and information that would be useful if you were an economist, as well as doing the tour with Marguerite where we learned more about the history of the treasury building and what the treasury building is for. Taking part in this program has opened my mind to the thought that I might enjoy getting a job as an economist or working in that type of area. Today overall was fun and exciting, I would love to experience it all over again.

Georgia M—Year 9

## National Careers Week - 8 May 2019



Careers Education Victoria have been running a series of Industry Immersion Experience Programs - Our College was lucky enough to get a booking for students to visit the Reserve Bank of Australia and Treasury House to see how our economy works and meet economists who monitor and regulate finance, interest rates and influence the local and global economy.



## Love Your Library - Part 2, Term 2

Our College can now boast TWO libraries!

Where other college libraries around the Peninsula are being closed, we are doing the opposite.

Our Reading Enrichment Program has seen the emergence this year of a dedicated library for Year 7 & 8 Students. 'Comfortable places to sit' and 'choosing something interesting to read' are the new features of our Junior space. The significance and importance of a strong start to literacy is vital to a child's educational journey from the very beginning through to VCE and beyond.

Reading, and understanding what you are reading, is central to all education—everything fits into place in every subject with this understanding.

With funding support from organizations such as Rotary Somerville and Community initiatives, Somerville Secondary College isn't following the economic trend by reducing literacy opportunities; we are actively running in the opposite direction by recognizing the need for a stronger approach to literacy.

We are proud of our efforts and decisions. We believe the structure of a strong literacy-based environment will benefit our students and give them a leading educational edge.

*Sue Curran*

Library Manager



## Reward & Recognition Results—Term 1

# RTR Reward & Recognition

Class	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Winning Class	Champion Class
Year 7	Toby Cable 7B	Taj Begent 7B	Abigail Taylor 7B	7A	7A (204 Sommie Monies)
Year 8	Maddy Melhuish 8A	Rubi Bunn 8A	Matthew Shackleton 8A	8A	
Year 9	Zoe Fitcher 9A	Megan Catt 9B	Sophie Tubb 9A	9A	
Year 10	Hayley Monk 10A	Harley Carter 10A	Thomas Pye 10B	10B	
Year 11	Jaymee Sutherland 11A	Lucy Bentham 11A	Bailey Jackson 11A	11A	
Year 12	Rhylee McCarthy 12B	Joshua Davis-Bechaz 12A	Jeremy Dixon 12B	12B	

House	House Total	Champion House
Coolart	374	Coolart - 374 Sommie Monies
Eramosa	274	
Graf	334	
Jones	169	



**Congratulations to all winners!**  
**Well done to our Sporting Houses and everyone who put in the effort.**

# Student Wellbeing



## **International day against homophobia, biphobia, interphobia & transphobia (IDAHOBIT) day: May 17<sup>th</sup> 2019**

International day against homophobia, biphobia, interphobia & transphobia (IDAHOBIT) day is Friday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2019.

At Somerville Secondary College our ethos is one of caring for each student as an individual, and it aims to provide a safe, happy and friendly environment where students and staff develop positive relationships and all students are encouraged to reach their full potential.

### **Headspace – Enhancing Mental Health Support in Schools**

Headspace is able to deliver face to face counselling support for students at Somerville Secondary College. This counselling support is designed to increase the availability of mental health support for students, improve mental health outcomes and assist students in finding the right support as appropriate. For more information please contact Therese Hall – Student Wellbeing Coordinator on 5973 1060.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club is on Wednesday and Thursday mornings 8am - 8:20am in the canteen foyer. Students who have not had breakfast in the morning are able to come and get a toasted sandwich and some juice while meeting Wellbeing staff members

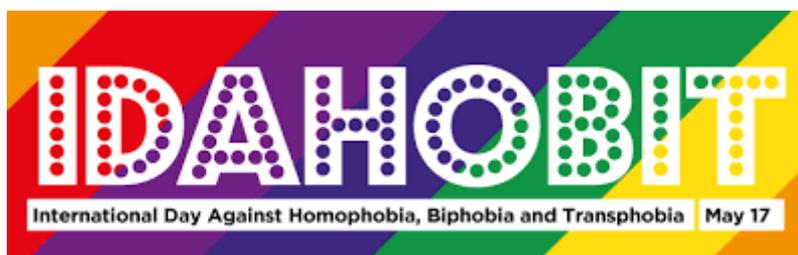
All students are welcome.

### **Year 7 girls resilience group**

Seven Year 7 students are currently participating in the Girls resilience group, this group focuses on increasing resilience and peer relationships through group discussions, art and self reflection. The program is facilitated by the Adolescent Health Nurse and Wellbeing Coordinator.

### **Rainbow Chat Room**

Rainbow Chat Room meets every Monday lunchtime. It is an inclusive, accepting space for students who are gender diverse, same sex attracted or intersex and allies and supporters. A hang out space, as well as a place to challenge homophobia and transphobia and generally make the school more inclusive and supportive of diversity. If you would like some more information please come and see our Adolescent Health Nurse, Lil Cousens.





RSPCA   
**Million  
Paws Walk** 

Walk to fight animal cruelty

Fred Smith Reserve, Marine Parade, Hastings

SUNDAY  
19 MAY  
2019

REGISTER TODAY: [millionpawswalk.com.au](http://millionpawswalk.com.au)



#millionpawswalk



Transforming Lives™



Hash Puppies!

## Punctuality means ...

School begins at 8:30 - be on time!

"lost minutes = lost learning!"



Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!

Mornington Peninsula Hockey Club is seeking new players. Students are welcome to come to a training session and see if they would like to join up.

*Curves*  
**A LOT  
CAN CHANGE  
IN 6 weeks**

**6 WEEKS  
FOR \$139\***  
with no joining fee

SOMERVILLE 5978 0621  
Shop 24a, 49 Eramosa Rd West

\*See in club for details or visit <http://www.curves.com.au> for full terms and conditions.

**SOMERVILLE MARKET**  
At St Andrews Church  
Every 2nd Saturday of the month  
(8th June)  
8:30 am—12:30 pm

Support your local stallholders  
Inquiries: 59776980 (Graeme)