

Somers Primary School



SPS NEWSLETTER

Term 2 - Issue 5

Thursday 24th June, 2021.



Principal's Report

Dear Families,

Thank you for a positive term of learning at Somers Primary School. Despite the challenges that we have faced over the past 10 weeks ensuring that our students can stay happy, engaged and making great progress at school, we have had lots of successes and achievements that we should be extremely proud of.

I had the chance to catch up with some of our School Captains and Vice Captains this week to reflect on the challenges and success of this year so far. Molly, Mabel and Tom reflected that remote learning was the biggest challenge for them so far this year. Dealing with internet connections with multiple family members online at the same time, coupled with power outages caused by our recent major storm, made the recent period of remote learning particularly challenging. The students felt that our teachers made the switch to remote learning remarkably well, but the abruptness and unexpectedness of the return to lockdown was a challenge.



Principal's Report continued...

For our Year 5's and 6's, missing out on things they had been really looking forward to has also been a disappointment. As part of their Urban Camp activities, the senior students were anticipating a great last day at the Queen Victoria Market and the Zoo. Many of them had been saving up their pocket money to spend at the Market. Unfortunately, the snap lockdown meant that we had to cut the camp short. We have also recently made the difficult decision to cancel our first ever Snow Camp which was due to take place at the start of August.

Despite these setbacks, there have been moments that our students have spoken positively about this year. For example, getting to go to camp (even if it has not been for the full time) was a highlight, and Molly, Mabel and Tom were really aware that planning and running camps during a pandemic is not an easy feat! Our Student Leaders also recognised that there have been great experiences for our younger students, including Discovery Day, Horizons and our recent trip to Somers Camp for Year 3,4 and 5 students.

The times when they have been able to have restrictions lifted have also been positives for our students. Highlights of these positives include returning to school to see their friends and getting back to netball, football and other sports. It is a hallmark of our students' resilience and positive outlook that they can look for the positives through all of the challenges that they have faced.

Learning Progress Conferences

On Wednesday 21st July, Learning Progress Conferences will take place at school. On this day, all students will attend for the duration of their conference only. In the conference, students will be supported by their teacher to communicate their learning progress to parents, discuss how they have made that progress, their next steps and strategies to achieve their goals. Over the next few weeks teachers will be working with your child so they can take an active part in providing this valuable information to parents. In the conferences, parents will also have a chance to communicate 1-1 with their child's teacher without children present if they wish.

Conferences will be booked online. Go to <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code?code=fd89g>.

Healthy Eating Policy

At school, we encourage all students to develop a healthy lifestyle and are guided by our Healthy Eating Policy that our School Council developed in 2019. Our policy outlines our commitment to encouraging healthy eating and nutrition at school. Enjoyment of healthy foods and drinks has a wide range of positive benefits for student health and learning outcomes such as:

- providing important nutrients that students need to be alert and engaged in classroom activities and for healthy physical development and performance.
- supporting the development of healthy eating habits and preferences.
- paving the way for good health and prevention of chronic illness.

At Somers Primary School, we encourage eating a wide variety of foods from the five food groups each day, including fruit, vegetables, grain, dairy and dairy alternatives and meat and meat alternatives.



Principal's Report continued...

Our school recognises families' right to decide what their children eat whilst at school. We encourage families to limit discretionary (or 'sometimes') foods in students' lunches at school. Discretionary foods include:

- chocolate, confectionery, jelly
- sweet biscuits, high fat/salt savoury biscuits, chips
- high sugar/high fat cakes and slices
- deep fried foods and pastry based foods
- most fast food and takeaway foods
- some processed meats
- soft drinks, fruit juice and fruit drinks, cordial, sports drinks, energy drinks, flavoured milk and flavoured mineral water.

Pick Up Arrangements

Recently we have had a few instances of children being unsure of what arrangements have been made for school pick up, and some students have gone on the walking school bus without prior arrangement with their parent or carer. Please ensure that your child is aware of how they are travelling home.



Please also be aware that our school has a duty of care to ensure that arrangements for students travelling must be pre-planned and follow the directions of parents and carers. If a child is not collected as planned, or they are unsure about their arrangements for traveling home, staff must contact the child's parents or carer to confirm arrangements for their travel home. Please understand that we cannot send students home with other students' parents without direct consent. If we are in doubt, we will contact parents.



SPONSORSHIP FOR THE ARTS FAIR

Planning for the 2021 Arts Fair is in full swing!

Diamond, Gold and Silver sponsorships are now available. This is a great opportunity to have a business advertised in our local community, whilst supporting our school. Sponsorships can be in-kind (providing goods or services to the Arts Fair) or monetary. Sponsorship prospectuses are available from our office (somers.ps@education.vic.gov.au).

Our previous method of transporting the Totem Poles to and from artists and the Arts Fair is no longer available. We are currently looking for a crane truck and driver that could help us with this. This could be a great in-kind sponsorship for a local business. If you know of someone that can help, please contact me here at school (hugh.greer@education.vic.gov.au).



Garden Volunteers

Our Somers School Garden is always looking for more volunteers to help out. We encourage all families to drop in and help out at any time – before and after school, during recess and lunch, or in class times. This resource is for our whole school community. If you would like to spend some time in the garden with your child and their class, please contact your child's teacher, or contact Kirsty or myself at school.



Enjoy the term break, and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 12th July!

Hugh Greer, Principal

Email: hugh.greer@education.vic.gov.au

Assistant Principal's Report



Dear Families,

Due to COVID-19 and subsequent periods of remote learning over the past 12 months, children have been spending more time than they usually would online or using devices. At school, we have definitely seen an increase in parents reporting issues as a result of increased use of technology. Earlier this term our Grade 4, 5 and 6 students participated in the Student Attitude to School Survey. Included this year was a *Student Online Experiences* section. Preliminary

results from this factor show that 39% of our students in Grades 4 to 6 reported that they had been sent something on the internet (i.e. on social media, in an email or online message) that made them upset or uncomfortable. 21% of students also reported that they had someone post something about them online that they didn't want anyone else to see.

Hugh and I had a chance to discuss technology use with our Grade 6's earlier this week. We talked about why it was important to have rules around using technology both at school and at home. Students shared some of the rules they had at home. These included:

- Not sharing passwords with friends
- Parental controls activated and abiding by the age limits on social media platforms.
- Time limits on devices and devices charged in family area overnight.
- Restriction on devices that only allowed access to some sites.
- Not revealing personal details online
- Devices are used only in family areas
- Parents approve any app downloads or purchases and asking permission to add friends to social media.

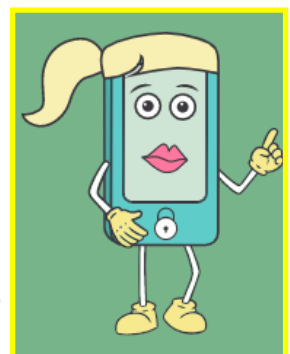
Following this, we talked about what to do if students had an experience online that made them uncomfortable or upset.

Resources to Support Parents and Children

The safety Commissioner website is a fantastic resource for parents to support them and their child to have safe and positive experiences online.

[Homepage | eSafety Commissioner](#)

The site offers free webinars for parents, information on taming technology, advice on helping your child stay in control of the personal information, online safety, setting family rules around technology use and advice on how to respond if there are any issues. We encourage families to take advantage of the great information and resources it has to offer.





Online Safety Basics

Be engaged, open and supportive:

- Get involved. Share online time with your children as part of family life. Play games together. Talk about favourite apps, games or websites.
- Keep lines of communication open. Ask about their online experiences, who they are talking to and whether they are having any issues.

Set some rules

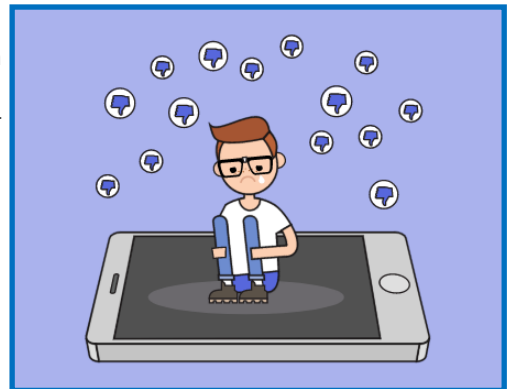
- Set age-appropriate rules for devices and online access, with consequences for breaking them.
- Consider creating a family tech agreement (A family tech agreement is a set of rules about how devices, like smartphones, tablets, computers, TVs and gaming consoles are used in your home).

Family Tech Agreement template can be found here:

[Parent resources | eSafety Commissioner](#)

Use the available technology

- Get to know the devices you and your children use and set them up for privacy and online safety. Take advantage of parental controls to monitor and control screen time and access to content in ways appropriate to your child's age and experience.



Wishing you all a safe holiday break!

Kind Regards,

Kirsty Egglestone

Assistant Principal

kirsty.egglestone@education.vic.gov.au



STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

WISHING THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FROM YOUR TEACHERS & FRIENDS @ SOMERS PS!

Ella S, Celeste L, Henry S, Gabriel E,

Arnold K, Lachlan J, Charlotte G, Braith P,

Daniel W, Ryan K, Kyeisha S, Grace J, Madeleine I,

Oscar P, Toby Q & Kalani W



KEY TERM CALENDAR DATES

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY: Parents can access assemblies by using this link:

<https://eduvic.webex.com/meet/greer.hugh.au>

JUNE	
Fri 25 June	Last day of Term 2 - Early Dismissal 2:30pm
Sat 26/06 - Sun 11/07	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
JULY	
Mon 12 July	Term 3 Begins
Wed 21 July	Learning Progress Conferences - Bookings Online, students attend with their parents. (refer to Principal's report for further details)
AUGUST	
Wed 4 Aug - Fri 6 Aug	Year 3/4 Somers Camp



COMMUNITY NEWS



*Crib Point
Community
Market*



Crib Point Community Market

**Saturday July 10th, 2021 -
9am to 1pm**

INDOOR & OUTDOOR STALLS

Handmade: Jewellery, cards, aprons, baby's and adult's bibs, clothes, soaps, pens, fretwork, knitted items, decoupage.

Produce: eggs, potatoes, plants, eco-friendly products

Refreshments: Devonshire Teas, Coffee,

Lots more: Cribby Koala, Treasure Hunt and lots more.

Proceeds go to the Crib Point Community House and Community Programs

Location: Crib Point Community House, 7 Park Rd, Crib Point

Email: market@cpch.org.au Ph: 59839888



COMMUNITY NEWS



Southern School
of Creative Arts

BOOK NOW FOR OUR WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

3 x day short filmmaking course for kids.
Make a film and enter it into a festival!

Mon 28 - Wed 30 June @ Somers YC

TERM 3
BOOKINGS
NOW
OPEN!

SOMERS PS

DANCE & DRAMA ALL-STARS (P-3)
Wednesdays at lunchtime

SCRIPT TO SCREEN (Grades 3 - 6)
Wednesdays 3:45 - 4:45

SCRIPT TO STAGE (Grades 4 - 6)

Fridays at lunchtime



NEW CLASSES & LOCATIONS!

Pre-schooler classes at Somers YC

Troupe for Teens at Balnarring Hub

Adult 'Dance in the Dark' sessions coming soon!

hello@ssoca.com.au
0431 109 3430
www.ssoca.com.au



IS YOUR CHILD TRAVELLING SAFELY?

FREE CHILD CAR RESTRAINT
FITTINGS & SAFETY CHECKS



Crib Point
Community House



Crib Point Neighbourhood House
invites local parents and carers to
book in for a free child car
restraint fitting or safety check!

WHERE 7 Park Rd, Crib Point

WHEN Thursday 24 June 2021 between 10am and 2pm.

HOW Bookings are essential. Parents and carers (including grandparents!) can book in a free child car restraint fitting or check by registering through:
<https://safeseatssafekids.com.au/venues-mec/>
Please use drop down box to search venue name for all dates available. Please note, if you need to have more than 1 child car restraint fitted/checked, you will need to book multiple appointments.

WHY 70% of child car restraints are incorrectly installed or used, posing a serious safety risk to children travelling in those restraints. For peace of mind, have a professional fitter check your restraints so you know your child is safe. For more information about the program, please visit kidsafevic.com.au/road-safety/free-child-car-restraint-checking-program

These events are hosted by Kidsafe Victoria in partnership with Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, with support by the Victorian State Government.



COOLART TO CERBERUS BIOLINK PROJECT KOALA TREE PLANTING



Please register at: www.mpkoalas.org.au
✉ MPkoalatreeplanting@outlook.com



We are planting 15,000+ trees and shrubs to help restore koala habitat on the Mornington peninsula. Come and join us to help bring back our Koalas!

A big thankyou to our sponsors!

