Welcome Back

It is great to be back at school for another fun filled year of learning and friendships. Already I have had the pleasure of meeting many of the new students and their families. On the first two days of term our staff participated in professional development in the areas of technology in the 21st century, whole school approaches to Positive Behaviours and Assessment. We also wrote the draft of our 2017 Annual Implementation Plan which brings us to the completion of our 4 year Strategic Plan.

We are very excited to share that our 4 year targets for reading were well and truly exceeded in 2016 placing us above the state average when it comes to two year high growth in writing outcomes. This can be attributed to the personalised learning programs provided by our fantastic teachers and staff and we look forward to celebrating high achievement into the future.

A warm welcome to our new teachers Sarah Chapman and Adam Poole and welcome back to Bee Gray who all bring with them outstanding reputations and a wide range of skills that complements our talented and dedicated staff. Speaking of talented and dedicated, we all have been very impressed with the year 6 leaders so far this year who are already showing enthusiasm and initiative as they settle into their new roles.

Finally a warm welcome to our vibrant, excited and extremely cute preps who have fitted into school very comfortably so early in the year. Well done and welcome aboard.

I’m looking forward to working in partnerships with families and the wider community and getting to know you all more this year.

Nicky Fammartino - Principal

Srps Sponsors
STUDENT CONFIDENTIAL DETAILS
Shortly you will receive a copy of your child’s details as per our records. It is crucial that we have up to date contact details for your child especially current mobile numbers and emergency contacts details. Please read the confidential details document and sign and return it if it is completely correct. If it is not correct please make the alterations, sign it and send it back to the school. We appreciate your cooperation with this as it ensures that we can contact you readily and in particular if there was an emergency situation.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our first School council meeting will take place on Monday the 20th of March. There are a couple of parent positions available so if you are interested in joining us this year please have a chat with me or see the office for more information.

SCOOTERS
As of next week we are asking students who bring scooters to school to please secure your scooter in the bike area. Locks are advised as we can’t take responsibility for unsecured bikes and scooters. A reminder that bikes and scooters need to be walked through the school grounds.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED
UNIFORM SHOP
We are looking for volunteer/s to run our uniform shop once a week. If you are interested in helping out please contact the office on 5977 8500. Days and times can be arranged to suit.

FUNDRAISING & BREAKFAST CLUB
Thank you to Judy Waddington for offering to take a leading role with fundraising this year. This is a huge commitment and we appreciate this offer. Also thanks again to the Agass family for their ongoing support and leadership with our breakfast program. This is a positive and highly celebrated way for our school community to end the week and your efforts are appreciated. If there are any other people in the school community who have some time to offer to assist with fundraising or volunteering time to help out with the breakfast program or reading programs can you please speak with someone in the front office.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Coping skills for children starting school for the first time

This article is part of the Kidsmatter Starting School resources and it is equally relevant to any new situation our children face.

As they grow and develop, all children encounter situations where they feel worried, nervous and sometimes even scared. Starting school involves a big change for your child as they settle into a new environment and begin forming relationships with peers and school staff. Even if your child’s transition to school goes smoothly, it is likely that they will encounter some ups and downs throughout their primary school years.

Helping your child to learn coping skills as they start school will allow them to develop and practise skills that will enable them to cope with future changes and challenges. This will help to strengthen your child’s mental health and wellbeing now and into the future.

Helping children cope

There are lots of ways you can help your child to cope during challenging or worrying situations. You might like to:

- **Listen and talk** to your child. Help them to identify their concerns or worries and acknowledge how they are feeling. For example, you could say, “it sounds like you are worried about who you will play with at school tomorrow.”

- **Comfort your child.** There may be times when your child does not want to talk and just having a parent nearby engaging in a shared activity or giving them a cuddle is helpful.

- **Reassure your child** when they are feeling worried or unsure. For example, you could say, “it is a big playground but there is an area for just the little kids to play.”

- **Demonstrate and model** ways that you cope with situations. For example, you could say, “I am going to take five deep breaths to help myself relax.”

- **Prepare your child for changes.** Talk positively with your child about school, show them their new surroundings and do activities together that relate to starting school, such as reading stories about change.

- **Encourage help-seeking** by teaching your child when to ask for help. For example, your child could ask a teacher for help to open their lunch box.

- **Problem-solve** the situation with your child through a step-by-step process.

- **Encourage** your child by talking positively about their attempts to cope.

Have you lost a bike?
This bike has been abandoned at school and we are trying to find its owner. Please contact the school if it is yours.

Missing scooter
Last week a scooter was taken from our scooter shed at the end of the day. It was given to one of our students as a Christmas present. If you have seen or know anything about this scooter please see Mrs Fammartino.

Working with Children’s Checks for volunteers
Last year the School Council ratified the school’s Working with Children’s Check Policy in line with Child Safe Standards. A valid Working with Children Check (WWC Check) is the minimum standard for all adults working with children and this will be required for all parents and carers who volunteer at Somerville Rise Primary School. This includes parents helping in activities such as reading, assisting with PMP, Breakfast Club, etc. Please note that a receipt of application is no longer adequate to be able to begin volunteering at school. Working with Children’s Checks for volunteers are free and are applied for through the website, [http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au). From Monday December 5th an updated, more user-friendly application process is being implemented. The school maintains a WWC register which is updated with your card’s details once you receive the WWC check card.
PE – Brenton Patterson

**Summer Sport**
Notes will be sent home with those students involved with Summer sport. We play Kanga cricket, rounders, softball and newcomb.

Our District is trialling a new format this year for Summer sport. We will be playing three practice matches and then competing in a District Lightning Premiership.

**District Swimming Trials**
Thursday the 23rd of February is our District Swimming Time Trials, which are held each year at the Pines Pool. Swimmers must be of a Squad Training level to be eligible. If you would like to tryout please see Mr Patterson ASAP.

**Sports Leaders**
Our Sports leaders for 2017 are Bridget Cross, Jesse Ellery, Jett McDonald and Kirra Pusch. They have already been working hard on restocking all the classroom sports bins, organising 5/6 sport and speaking at assembly. They will be a great asset to the PE program and I look forward to working with them throughout the year.

PREP – GRADE 2  Di Wheeler

Welcome Back to School and Welcome to our New School Starters

Dear Parents and the School Community,

It is exciting to see everyone so spick and span in their school uniforms ready to learn for the year. Our new prep students are loving school so far.

“I love playing with the farm and the farm animals,” says Will.

“Liam is my friend and he is VERY funny,” says Brok.

“I can already count to 29,” says Liam.

The grade 1s and 2s had a brilliant holiday. Going camping, having sleep overs, motorbike riding, swimming, climbing mountains and going to the beach are just some of the activities they were involved in.

I think 2017 is going to be a fabulous year.

From Ms Wheeler and Ms Munro
GRADE 3 – 4 Craig White

Learning Intention
Write a recount paragraph.

Success Criteria
Write and topic and related sentence about Cup Stacking and bring writing to life with a speech sentence.

The champions worked as a team to test out their skills. The rubber band expanded as the Gold Gangsters placed it on the cup, putting it into position on the pyramid.

“Awesome! We won between both classes with times of 56.8 and 54.00 seconds,” yelled the Gangsters excitedly.

By Shayla W Shae  Lilly  Shayla E

The Maniacs got the equipment to stack cup so they could be the best in the world. Each cup was carefully placed into position using a rubber band and string.

“We are so close,” yelled Adam.

“So close,” screamed Josh.

“We did it.” Said Toby

by Josh Adam Toby Tia

The Unicorns got the equipment, picked up the cups one by one and stacked them the quickest. Slowly pulling the strings out, the rubber band was placed onto the cups so they could be moved into position.

“Oh no, the tower of cups has fallen so we’ll have to start again,” yelled Keagan

By Ryder Calleigh Sebastian Keagan

Their eyebrows were fierce, their hair was sweating as the amazing Turtles carefully stacked the cups. Putting them in order they almost won.

“Hooray!” they screamed.

By Freddie Jack  Ben  Zane

GRADE 5 – 6 Kylie Hammond

Welcome to Senior School

What a fabulous start to the year it has been in Senior School. For the new families, welcome, and for the old families, welcome back!

The students have been committed to learning new routines and taking pride in their high standard of work and themselves. We have been focusing on respect for self and others through a lot of discussion and problem solving, encouraging team work at all times.

Our favourite team work activity was box sliding down the hill, where all of our keys to success were put into action. For some, it was all about developing greater persistence, and for others it was all about confidence and getting along with new classmates.

Above all though, it was fun! Thank you to all of the senior students for making it such an awesome beginning to 2017.
These advertisers support us, please support them.