

Somers Primary School



SPS NEWSLETTER

Term 1 - Issue 2 Friday 21st February, 2025

Principal's Report



Dear Families,

Well done to all of our students on the successful start you have had to the school year. It has been fantastic to see our students working with their teacher to set up their learning environment, co-designing the expectations for how students and staff will work together to create a safe, positive and focused learning environment.

Meet the Teacher Interviews

Thank you to all of our families who met with their child's teacher this week at meet the teacher interviews. This important event allows us to get to know more about your child and how to best support their learning and wellbeing at school.

Student Attendance

Our aim this term is to reduce the number of unapproved absences across the school. Our target this term is that on average, students have less than 1 unapproved absence in term one.

To help us keep the number of unapproved absences down, families can do the following:

- Avoid being absent from school unnecessarily – for example, taking a long weekend on school day, visiting family or friends on a school day or taking a day off for a birthday.
- Planning family holidays during term breaks. Where this is unavoidable, please notify your child's teacher to develop a learning plan to support your child's learning whilst they are absent.
- Notifying the school of the reason for your child's absence – absences where no reason is given will be marked as unapproved. Our administration team will follow up with families who do not give a reason for children's absence.

Explicit Teaching at Somers Primary School

This year we have revised our school's instructional model to better align with current research on how students learn. Evidence gained over recent decades has provided important new insights about the learning process, and these processes explain why some teaching practices are more effective than others (Australian Education Research Organisation, 2023).

Our *Somers PS Explicit Teaching Model* outlines effective teaching practices for our staff to ensure that we are increasing the impact of our planned learning activities.

At the start of a lesson, teachers focus on enabling learning by teaching and establishing habits and routines that create a safe, respectful and focused learning environment.

In each lesson, teachers plan fluency activities to review and consolidate previous learning, allowing students to retrieve information from their long-term memory to be used in their working memory. This process creates new and stronger connections in students' knowledge and consolidates this knowledge in their long-term memory.

Teachers articulate the learning goals for students in the form of Learning Intentions, which are then broken down into manageable 'chunks' that are observable in the lesson. These success criteria help students understand what they have to do to demonstrate mastery in the lesson, increasing their engagement in the learning process.

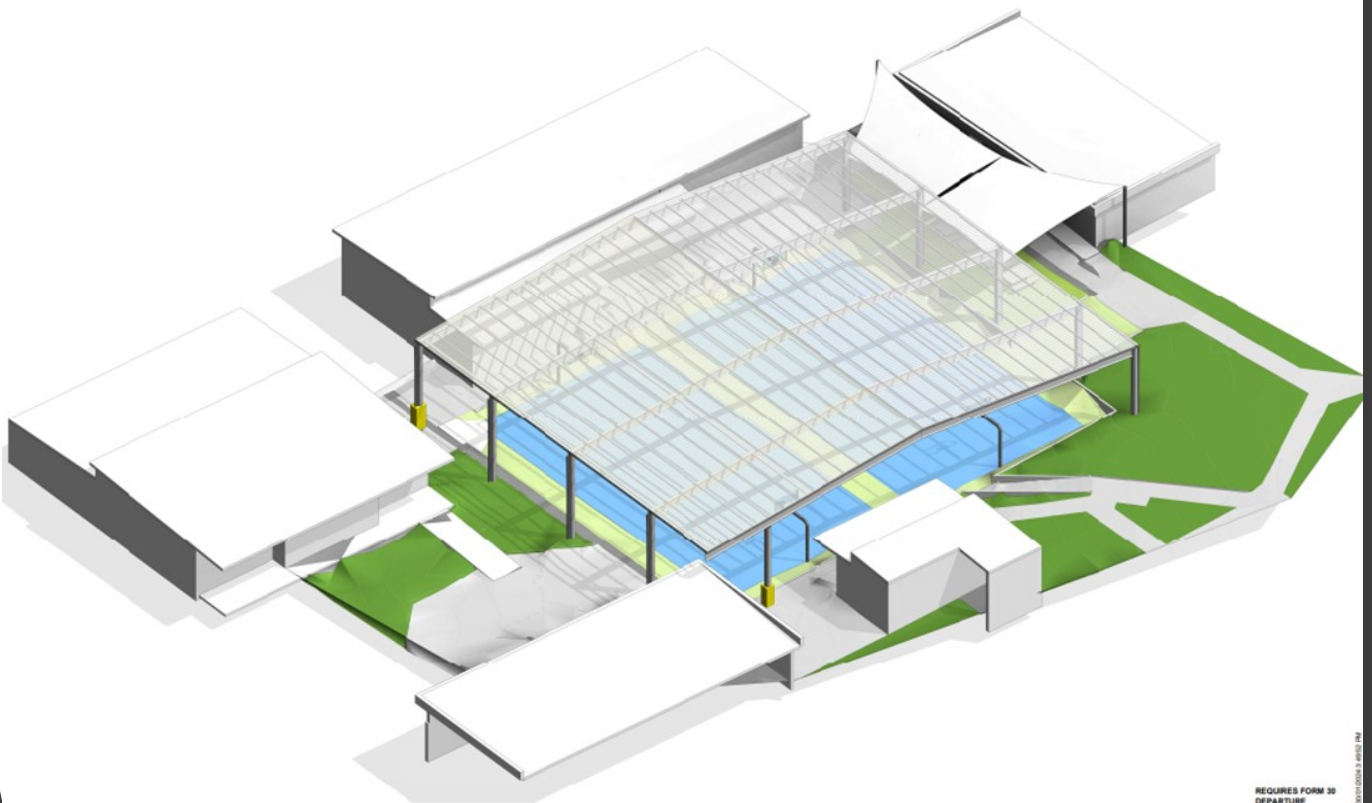
Teachers explicitly model the skill, knowledge or process in small steps using language to explain their thinking as they demonstrate. Breaking the learning down into small steps helps manage students' cognitive load to avoid students' working memory becoming overloaded.

Teachers then provide scaffolded practice of the knowledge, skill or process, with teacher feedback and support. Teachers use observation, monitoring, practise and feedback to help students move the intended learning into long-term memory.

Important content is then revised at the end session, and students show examples of the success criteria.

Covered Outdoor Learning Area

We are anticipating our roof structure over the basketball court to start taking shape over the next two weeks. During this time access past the office will be restricted as the columns are erected. We will update families via compass when access routes change. We are working with our builders to ensure that deliveries of steel and movement of cranes into the site is done outside of school hours wherever possible to ensure safety and minimise disruption.





2025 NAPLAN Assessments

2025 NAPLAN Assessments will take place for Year 3 and 5 students between Wednesday 12th March and Friday 21st March. A timetable for classes will be sent home via Compass closer to these dates. Please ensure that you are prioritising your child's attendance at school during this period. Please get in touch with your child's teacher or me if you have any questions about these assessments.

Student Free Day

Please be aware that Friday 7th March is a student-free day. Teachers will be engaged in professional learning on this day.

2026 Enrolment Tours

We are currently conducting tours for 2026 Prep Enrolment. If your family would like to book a tour, or you know a family who would, please contact us via email somers.ps@education.vic.gov.au or phone 59835546 to arrange a personalised tour with Kirsty or me. Our school will be hosting our 2026 Prep Information Evening on Thursday 8th May at 6:00pm.

Mobile Phone Ban

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that was introduced across Victoria in 2020. The ban requires students who bring mobile phones or wearable communication devices (including smartphones) to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours. The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2025 school year.

The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state. This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions. By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

Lockboxes are available in all Year 3-6 classrooms, and students are required to switch off and hand any devices brought to school to their teacher at the start of the day.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.

For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this. In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context, is available on our website. The [Mobile phones in schools](#) webpage provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's time using mobile phones.



Regards,

Hugh Greer, Principal

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



Student Birthdays

Congratulations to the following students who celebrated or are celebrating their birthdays in February & March

FEBRUARY

Mahlia W, Millie C, Holly F, Safia C, Diesel T, Ben R, Lincoln R, RJ Reardon, Lyla F, Arlo CB, Aura CB, Archie S, Lewis K, Micah A, Flinders R, Ivy M, Harvey W, Sam B, Lucia V, Van C

MARCH

Eve S, Lil H, Lulu C, Juliette K, Bnjo A, Arthur C, Noah B, Chloe O, Paddy McL, Logan L, Summer D, Harri T, Georgia WM, Davi B, Leo K, Cooper G, Lyda P, Paige W

Assistant Principal's Report

Dear Families,

Creating a Positive Learning Space- Engagement Program

Our classes are continuing to work on creating a positive learning environment. Learning has been focused on expectations in different settings outside the classroom. This includes learning about and practicing expectations when in the library, lining up and moving around the school, on excursions, using the toilets and in play areas.



Learner Confidence

For the remainder of this term, classes will be focussing on our school value of *Learning*. In recent years' our Attitude to School Survey data has shown we need to do some work around 'Learner Confidence'. In particular, students' perception about themselves as learners and their ability to undertake challenge when learning new things. Our focus cover four areas on what makes a good learner.

Good learners:

- Show persistent effort
- Reflect on their performance and progress
- Are invested in a goal
- Are receptive to teaching

We also reflected on how we recognise students when they show our learning value. Being more specific when awarding a Clear Card for learning would help students understand what constitutes being a good learner and which would enable them to develop their skills and understand of this value.

Students can now receive a Clear Card for asking and using feedback, asking for help, staying focussed, being resilient, talking about learning goals, celebrating learning and trying different strategies.

Somers PS Wellbeing Dog- Sable

This week, I have had the pleasure of visiting each classroom to talk about Sable and her role as Wellbeing Dog at Somers Primary School. I reinforced with students the three expectations will ensure Sable is safe and happy at school.

The three expectations are:

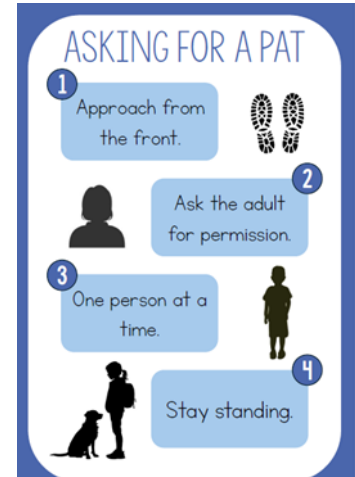
1. Say hello to the person and not Sable
2. We give lots of space when we pass Sable
3. We keep moving and we don't stand around and stare.

We also talked about how to ask to pat Sable. Hopefully next week, some students will have the opportunity to have a play with Sable in her outdoor space.

Kind Regards,

Kirsty Egglestone, Assistant Principal

Email: kirsty.egglestone@education.vic.gov.au



2025 Term 1 Calendar Dates

Weds 26 Feb	Prep Interviews
Weds 26 Feb	Yr 5/6 Water Safety Program (permission note on COMPASS)
Thurs 27 Feb	District Swimming (selected students—further information at later date)
Thurs 27 Feb	Patrick Guest Author incursion— 2.00 to 2.45pm (PA, P1B, 1A, 1B, 23A) - No cost
Weds 5 March	Prep Interviews
Weds 5 March	Yr 3-6 Inspire Program—1st session
Fri 7 March	CURRICULUM DAY—NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS
Mon 10 March	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
12th to 21st March	NAPLAN testing (Yr 3 & 5 students)
Weds 19th March	Yr 3-6 Inspire Program—2nd session
Thurs 20 March	Summer Lightning Prems (Yr 5 & 6 students)
Tues 1st April	School Photos
Weds 2 April	Yr 3-6 Inspire Program—3rd session
Fri 4 April	Colour Run Fundraiser (whole school) - further information at later date
Fri 4 April	Last Day of Term 1—students dismissed at 2.30pm

Runners Club



Runners Club

Runners Club meets every Monday & Thursday

on the school oval from 8.15am - 8.45am

(Arrive at any time from 8.15 onwards)

Certificates are awarded to all runners

Medals for 100kms+ | Trophies for 200kms+

(Parents/carers & younger siblings are welcome to join in)



Get fit & Have fun!



SOMERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM FOR GRADES PREP –6

2024 Enrollments & Bookings are now open.

WHAT WE OFFER

Our OSHC service provides high quality affordable care that meets the Department of Education's National Quality Framework for primary school children. Our fun packed program includes a variety of craft, sports and other activities in a safe environment.

PROGRAM HOURS: MONDAY—FRIDAY

BSC—7.00AM—9.00AM

ASC 3.30PM - 6.00PM

PROGRAM FEES

PERMANENT BOOKINGS

BSC -\$20.00 - ASC \$21.00

CASUAL BOOKINGS

BSC -\$21.00 - ASC \$23.00



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ENROLLING, CALL 5983 5546 OR EMAIL

somers.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Details are also on our website: somersps.vic.edu.au



FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Community News



**BALNARRING
AUSKICK & SUPERKICK** 

An intro to Australian Football and invaluable life skills. With game-based activities kids love!



nab AFL Auskick
4 - 7 year olds

ALL GIRLS GROUPS AVAILABLE

We want girls to feel comfortable and safe playing Auskick & Superkick! All-Girls options are available!



NAB AFL Superkick is a modified version of AFL that focuses on skill development for 7 to 12-year-olds.



AFL Superkick
7-12 year olds

FRIDAYS
3:45pm-4:45pm **Balnarring Recreation Reserve**
STARTING MAY 2ND

[VISIT PLAY.AFL](#)



Ready to try something new?
Join Scouts

1st Balnarring Scout Group is looking for young people to join Joey's!

Scouting actively engages and supports young people aged 5-25 in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Our Section meeting nights are
Joey's | ages 5-8 | Tuesday 5:30pm - 6:30pm
We meet at St Marks Church, Balnarring

For more information or to join, please email
gl.1stbalnarring@scoutsvictoria.com.au



1st Balnarring
Scout Group
1800 SCOUTS
scoutsvictoria.com.au

Crib Point Community Market

The Friendly Market

Saturday March 8th

9am-1pm

- Bring the kids down to have fun doing the Cribby Koala Treasure Hunt and colouring in.
- Handmade products: candles, cards, jewellery, clothing, mosaics, skincare, bags, footy quilts.
- Upcycled goods. Plants.
- Coffee and Devonshire Teas.
- Hot Jam Donuts
- Sausage Sizzle

Proceeds go to the Crib Point Community House and community programs.

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

OPEN NIGHT 2025



Address: 110 Harrisons Road Dromana 3936 (entry via Old White Hill Road)
Phone: 03 5987 2805
Website: www.dsc.vic.edu.au
Email: dromana.sc@education.vic.gov.au

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR OPEN NIGHT

**Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 6:00pm
in the Dromana College Basketball Stadium**

As the highest performing secondary school on the Mornington Peninsula, Dromana College will continue to work tirelessly to develop and consolidate the many exemplary educational programs on offer. With outstanding facilities, a committed professional staff and a caring school community, students are challenged to explore their interests and talents to achieve their personal best.

MORNINGTON PENINSULA HOCKEY CLUB
IN ASSOCIATION WITH HOCKEY VICTORIA



HOOK IN 2 HOCKEY

6 WEEK HOCKEY PROGRAM
Starts Wednesday 26 Feb 2025

Wed 26 Feb | Wed 5 Mar | Wed 12 Mar | Wed 19 Mar | Wed 26 Mar | Wed 2 Apr

5:15PM - 6:15PM
Peninsula Hockey Centre

Monash University Frankston (parking end of Bloom Street)

How to participate in this program: (Register in Jan 2025)

1. Children must be registered with Hockey Victoria
2. Visit <http://www.hookin2hockey.com.au> and select 'Find A Program'
3. Enter postcode 3199 and select 'Term 1 Hookin2Hockey Wednesdays'
4. Register for the Term 1 clinic and pay \$95.

COME AND HAVE FUN
LEARNING HOCKEY

MAKE NEW FRIENDS
LEARN NEW SKILLS

SUITABLE AGES
5 - 13 YEARS

BEGINNERS
WELCOME

BYO LONG SOCKS
BYO MOUTHGUARD
BYO DRINK

SHINGUARDS AND
STICKS SUPPLIED

**EXPRESSIONS
OF INTEREST**

Call Cheryle Bishop
(03) 8774 4784

hookin2hockey@mphc.org.au



BELONGING*BEING*BECOMING THERAPEUTIC ARTS COUNSELLING

Using art therapy as a form of counselling.

Therapeutic arts counselling is a powerful and gentle way to reduce anxiety and express feelings which are difficult to verbalize.

Engaging in art making and working with nature's canvas fosters a deeper understanding of life's patterns and relationships, while connecting to your own ideas and goals. Embracing a creative and playful attitude allows your joy to emerge and for a more authentic version of yourself to be seen. Exploring with a mindful attitude allows for deep listening to emerge in a holistic way.

No artistic ability needed, it is about expressing what you are feeling in a creative way. Art is a non verbal language, it encourages you to step back and see something new about yourself.

Available at Balnarring
& Baxter

Book a FREE 15-minute
chat

In Person, Online and
outreach in schools,
homes and businesses
available

Using Art Therapy
Modalities, Clinical
Counselling Tools, &
Narrative Therapy
techniques.

15yrs experience in
schools and
community

**MICHELLE
HAWKSWORTH**

A PROFESSIONAL REGISTERED
ART THERAPIST AND CLINICAL
COUNSELLOR

E: therapeuticarts.counsellor@gmail.com

0479128176

Monday, Wednesday &
Thursdays



MORNINGTON PENINSULA LIBRARIES

-February Edition-

STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED.

Our Library Van (OLiV) Has Arrived!

Launched in February 2025, you can browse, borrow, and return library items, as well as request and pick up holds at any one of our 16 stops, conveniently located across 14 unique locations on the Peninsula. For more information, visit our website or call (03) 5950 1710.



www.ourlibrary.mornpen.vic.gov.au/library-van



Join us at Our Library for an exciting 4-week STEM series where you can explore the mysteries of space through four unique hands-on activities. Recommended ages 7-12.

learn to code



fiero code

Fiero Code is a self-guided online program for ages 8+ offering a gamified learning experience. Learn how to build websites, video games, phone apps, animations and more.

Studiosity
Study help, anywhere

Free study and homework help in
maths, English and Science 24/7
FREE with your Mornington
Peninsula Library membership!

CONNECT WITH US!
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ourlibrary.mornpen.vic.gov.au