Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who have returned their child’s student details form with update or confirmed information. This will enable us to email the newsletter out each fortnight. If you do what a hareded copy please drop into the office and we will make sure this happens.

Last year I hurt my shoulder in an accident at school. It has been decided that I need it operated on and will be heading off to hospital on 23 Feb. Due to the nature of the recovery period I will not be at school for the remainder of term. A replacement principal has been allocated by Regional Office. We will welcome Miss Emma Vine to our school for a visit Monday and then she will be our principal for the remainder of the term. I will return at the start of Term 2. I am sure you will all make her feel very welcome. I will be staying in contact to ensure that our great start to 2016 continues and I will only be an email or phone call away.

LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to our 2016 school leaders who were presented with their new badges on Monday:

School Captains:

Lachlan, Thomas H, Charlotte O and Ashlee.

Amaroo House Captains: Milly and Jacob

Goorari House Captains: Jorja and Gypsy

Patonga House Captains: Kiana and Keeley

Arts Captains: Isabella Perez and Kiki Wright

Technology Captains: Taylor and Tom C

Environmental Captains: Brody and Lachlan B

Active School Travel Captains: Lachlan B and Brody

SPORTING SCHOOLS

We have been successful in our grant application and you may shortly see our Orienteering coach Gordon Bosely running around the school with a camera and GPS as he maps our school before starting lessons staring with Senior 2. Orienteering also called “Cunning Running” is a family of sports that requires navigational skills using a map to navigate from point to point in diverse and usually unfamiliar terrain, and normally running a race. Orienteering may be done as an individual or in teams.

READING CLUB

It is fantastic to see so many parents stopping in to help out at reading club on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Regular reading is one of the best ways to help prepare your child to be a great reader.

BEHAVIOUR

This week our staff participated in our first meeting with staff from Behaviour Support Services to start us on our Positive Behaviour for Learning journey. Mrs French has attended her first day of training and came away very keen to implement some of the suggestions she heard.

Yours in Education,

Janet Bannah

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER GROUP

Did you know that we now have 28 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children at Somerset Hills?

Celebrating the cultures of our Indigenous students and sharing information and understanding of their histories and culture is one of
the General Capabilities of the Australian Curriculum.

This month we commemorated the Anniversary of the Apology to the First People of Australia by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. All our students heard Aunty Gina’s Acknowledgement of Country and the funny talented Uncle Getano perform his unique blend of Music and Dance with just a few stories thrown in.

Many thanks Aunty Gina and Cheryl from our Indigenous Parent Group and Adam McNiven (P&C President) for finding the funds and organising the event.

We have IPG meeting every term. If you are interested in attending please let Mrs Bannah know and an invitation will be coming your way for the next meeting!

CHAPPIE NEWS

The expression “Time waits for no man,” is so true. I can’t believe we are almost half way through the term already. It has been so good meeting parents, students and staff here at Somerset Hills and everyone has made me feel really welcome.

On Thursday 25th February I will be hosting an afternoon tea in the tuckshop area. Please come along to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and some delicious treats and use the opportunity to meet me and perhaps get to know some of the other parents a little better as well. I have also invited Nexus Care to come along; they are the organisation that runs the breakfast program here at the school on Monday mornings. They will have information with them about all the community programs they run; these include the Fresh Start Food Program and the Emergency Relief Program. Staff from Nexus Care will be on hand to give you some more information on these programs if you are interested.

In my personal life I try and remind myself to always have an “attitude of gratitude”, this helps me to keep my focus on the positive things in life and to not allow the negative things to get too overwhelming. So I try and remember:

If you would like to contact me for anything, the best way to do that at this stage is via email. My email address is beverleyb@chappy.org.

And finally remember:
“Enjoy the little things; for one day you may look back and realise they were the big things.” Robert Braut

Thank you everyone who braved the mixed weather to have a swim and some pizza last weekend. It was still hot enough for the pool to be the centre of activity. Thanks to the P&C for organising the pizza and drinks!

UNIFORM SHOP

10 boxes of uniforms have now arrived! If you are looking to pick up some extra new shirts please come to the uniform shop next Wednesday morning from 8:30 am - 9:00am.

ATTENDANCE

Want to check out how your child’s class is going with attendance? In the office are graphs of the weekly attendance percentage for each class and the school overall. We have dipped below our target of 96% attendance for each and every one of our students.

Last week’s results were:

- Jnr 1 91.2%
- Jnr 2 93.4%
- Jnr 3 93.2%
- Snr 1 92.4%
- Snr 2 92.4%

The first meeting of the 50th anniversary committee was held last week. Mark 22 October in your calendars as the Special Day of Celebration of the school’s birthday. Several exciting events are going to be scheduled throughout the year. If you are interested in helping out with suggestions or time please see Jeanette Thomas at OHSC.

Circus Skills at Somerset Hills!

A new circus skills program will be starting on Thursdays from 3:15-4:15pm in the Somerset Hills School Hall. Learning circus skills is a great way for children to develop coordination, flexibility, strength and concentration in a fun and supportive environment. The classes are open to children in grades 1-6 and the term fee is $80. Classes start on the 11th of February. To make a booking, email claires.circus.school@gmail.com or phone 0439 532 299. For more information visit www.clairecircusschool.com.

LOST

One of our Year 1 students has lost her hearing aid at school. Please keep an eye out for this valuable piece of equipment. If found please hand in to the office or OHSC.