Dear Families
It is so nice to be back with our staff and students again. I personally would like to thank everyone who has wished me the best in my recovery from surgery. All your kind thoughts have paid off and I am feeling fighting fit!

ASSEMBLY
When we have a public holiday on a Monday Assembly will be changed to Tuesdays from 2:30pm.

School Review
This week we have participated in our 3 day Teaching and Learning Review. The reviewers took time to speak to staff, parents, students and community representatives about our school. In the next newsletter I will share the results of the review with our school community. From this review I will construct an Action Plan which will lead us in our development through our next 4 year cycle.

YEAR 6
Local high schools are gearing up for their Open Days for students enrolling as Year 7’s in 2017. Please keep an eye out in our newsletter for their advertised dates.

ORIENTEERING
Our Senior 2 students began learning about the sport of ‘Cunning Running’ last Friday with our Sporting Schools Coach Gordon Bosely. Map reading and planning are aspects just as important as running in this sport.

Gordon has plans for sessions for parents to join in and workshops and weekend events for family participation.

We are investigating how we can become known as a school of excellence in this representative sport.

NAPLAN IS COMING!
From May 10-12 May our Year 3 & 5 students will join students from all states to participate in the National Assessment Program-Literacy And Numeracy. The assessments cover:

• Spelling
• Punctuation and Grammar (Literacy Conventions)
• Reading
• Writing and
• Maths

Each test takes approximately 40 minutes and students are not able to receive any assistance other than what is regularly provided in class – this is usually for our Students With a Disability and support provisions must be applied for. In the Reading tests no-one can assist with reading the provided passages or the questions. In Maths we can help with reading the questions but can’t read the numbers.

Parents can choose to have their child not participate in any or all of the tests. If you are thinking of this please see your child’s class teacher to discuss your concerns.

We will complete an Exemption Form for any child who is withdrawn from the assessments.

The most important thing for our students is to make the assessments stress-free. It is about having a go and doing your best rather than getting every question right.

Yr 3 & 5 students are participating in some preparation for NAPLAN as part of our Investing for Success program. Students need to know how to ‘do’ the NAPLAN assessments which may be different from what they are used to. If you would like to see what the tests will look like please some will be on display in the hall windows.

READING CLUB
OMG- I have written so many certificates for student achievement in Reading this past week I have lost count- what a wonderful problem to have!
If you haven’t already dropped in, come along to the Library Tuesday to Friday mornings from 8:30-8:50 to see readers everywhere. It is inspiring to see and hear the improvement in student reading that regular practice is bringing. Of course if you want to stay and listen to a reader or 2 that will be most welcome also!

Yours in Education,

Janet Bannah

KEY TEACHINGSTAFF
Principal- Janet Bannah
Jnr 1 Teacher- Shannon Cash
Jnr 2 Teacher- Jo French
Jnr 3 Teacher- Emma Sharley
Sr 1 Teacher- Janelle Martin
Sr 2 Teacher- Emma Banks
LOTE Teacher- Sue Chaki
HPE teacher- Kath North
Music Teacher-Pauline Stockill
Instrumental Teachers- Alyson Van Gaalen
Harmony Woollett
Deadly Choices has partnered with our school to support both our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in specialised programs and our whole student body in special events. Following their work with our ATSI children in Term 1 they organised individual health checks for these students in Senior 1 and 2 this week. Attendance: Congratulations to the following students for high levels of attendance in Term 1:

**ATTENDANCE**

It was a very close race to the finish line last week. We had 3 classes with attendance over our targeted 96%. Congratulations to: Snr 2 with 96.54% just edging out Jnr 3 with 96.2%. In 3rd place was Snr 1 with 95.5% and followed closely by Jnr 1 with 93.3%.

This weekend, we are providing an opportunity for any community members to bring in their old Somerset Hills SS photos or documents to be scanned and used in the 50th Anniversary Celebrations. For anyone that hasn’t already heard the celebrations will take place at School on October 22nd. there will be food, entertainment, archive and photo displays and much more on the day...

Could you please help us to promote this by telling friends, family or community members that have been involved with the School in the past?

The details for photo collection this weekend are:
- **What** Bring in your old photos or documents to be scanned and used at our 50 Year Reunion displays.
- **Date** Saturday April 23
- **Time** 9.30am to 12.30pm
- **Where** School Hall - SHSS

If people can’t make it this weekend, they are welcome to scan and email their documents to somersethills50@hotmail.com We welcome anyone volunteers that would like to come along and help us do this on Saturday.

**DENTAL VAN**

The child and Adolescent Oral Health Service will be offering treatment to the students of our school soon. All students have been issued with a consent/medical history form. If you wish your child to be treated please return the fully completed form (4 pages) to the school by 26/4/16) Due to the demands on our service parents who return consent forms late will not necessarily have their children treated on site and may be offered treatment at another site.

Once dental staff receive a completed form an appointment for a dental examination will be made for your child. A parent/legal guardian must attend dental appointments with all students. If your child require further treatment you will be required to sign for the proposed treatment plan before it can proceed. For further contact 0412 706 508.

**PARENTS VIEWS ABOUT PARENTING SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

Do you have concerns about your child’s behaviour or emotional adjustment?
Do you want to learn more about managing your child’s behavioural or emotional problems?
Researchers from the UQ & UWA are investigating perceptions of parenting support programs and what influences whether parents take part in such programs.

If your child is aged between 2 and 10 years, and you are worried about their behaviour or emotional adjustment, we encourage you to follow the link below and complete a short, 20 minute survey. Your support and participation in this project is invaluable and will benefit parents and children across the country.

If you wish to participate, please click on this link, or type the URL into your internet browser: https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/parentviews

If you would like more information about the project, either use the link provided above, or contact alina@psy.uq.edu.au

Alina Morawska
Welcome back to term 2. I hope that you managed to enjoy some family time over the Easter period. I had my dad come and visit us from South Africa and this always gives me the opportunity to show off this beautiful country we now call home.

As much as I love spending time with family, it was also an exercise in self-control and patience as I spent a fair bit of time navigating around trying to accommodate many differing opinions and preferences.

It got me thinking about how important it is for all of us to practise self-control and the earlier we learn to do this the easier it gets. [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org) has some useful ideas about teaching self-control. They say that teaching self-control is one of the most important things that parents can do for their kids, by learning self-control, kids can make appropriate decisions and respond to stressful situations in ways that can yield positive outcomes.

Between the ages of 6 and 9, children are able to understand consequences and they are now able to choose good or bad behaviour. Now is a good age to teach children to imagine a “Stop Sign” that needs to be obeyed. When faced with a frustrating situation, encourage children to imagine the “Stop Sign” and then walk away from that situation and cool down before having an outburst. When you see your child doing this praise them for taking time to cool down as this will encourage them to continue using this skill.

By age 10 to 12, children are better able to understand their feelings. Encourage your child to think about what is causing the outburst and what they are feeling at the time. Explain to them that often a situation can seem really upsetting at first but after a bit of time may not seem so bad. Encourage your child to take some time to think about their feelings and actions before they respond to a frustrating situation. Remember to praise them when you see them practising this skill.

I found this quote from Benjamin Franklin and thought his take on self-control was very interesting:

“Educate your children to self-control, to the habit of holding passion and prejudice and evil tendencies subject to an upright and reasoning will, and you have done much to abolish misery from their future and crimes from society.”

— Benjamin Franklin
Celebrate Mother’s Day

at

Somerset Hills State School’s

MOTHER’S DAY STALL

on

5th May

Chappy Bev will be in the hall from 11:45 am on the 5th May with some lovely treats for our special mums, grandmas, carers or any other special lady in your life; and nothing will be on sale for over $5.

All proceeds raised at this stall go to supporting the chaplaincy service at our school.