PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26 February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Zone Swimming
Best of luck to those who have qualified to participate in the Zone Swimming Carnival next Monday at the Peninsula Leisure Centre. Permission notes have been sent home and are to be returned as soon as possible.

School Photos
School photos for 2016 will be taken on Wednesday, 16th March. Envelopes for this will be sent home today and should be returned on the day of the photos.

P&C AGM
Tomorrow night is the P&C’s Annual General Meeting at 7pm, followed by a general meeting. We would love to see some new faces there to help ‘share the load.’ If you cannot make the meeting but would like to help in any way please contact the school and we can pass on your details. Thanking you in advance!

Learning Management and Business Reform (LMBR)
This year, the Central Coast will be the first area in the state to have the new LMBR system rolled out. This system will replace the outdated system we have used for many years, OASIS. Over the next 10 weeks Mrs Comensoli and I will be attending several mandatory training days to learn this new system. It will be a very busy time in the office and we thank you in advance for your patience. There will be updates as we go so please make sure to read the newsletter.

Debating
Debating – I will be out tomorrow with 9 of the children in 5/6 G at our debating workshop being held at Bateau Bay. Miss Ebert will take the class tomorrow.
Greetings from another busy few weeks in 5/6 G. This week the students have completed their final charcoal technique and have created some fantastic abstract pieces using their newly gained skills. They will be on display in our classroom from today for you to see, the children have enjoyed completing this unit in our art sessions.

Today the students in year 6 will be issued with their pen licence. The licence comes with 12 points which will be deducted for poor work presentation. Students will need to apply for their licence after a limited exclusion period upon losing all of their 12 points. Homework – please see me if your child is having difficulty with homework. I encourage the students to also come and see me for help anytime throughout the week if they need to.

Just a note on homework, unfortunately I may be unable to mark homework if it is handed in late, however I will endeavour to mark the work the following week with the next unit handed in.

Kylie Gowans

Clean Up Australia Day

On Friday 4th March, we will be once again participating in Clean Up Australia Day. This is an event we enjoy participating in each year. We are very lucky to have such beautiful school grounds and we love doing our part to keep Australia beautiful. Students are encouraged to bring in gloves to use during the clean-up activity. For those interested in participating in local clean-up activities on Sunday 6th March go to www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au for more information.

Jade Cranstone

Swimming Carnival

Well done to all of our swimmers who represented Somersby at last week’s Small Schools’ Carnival. Everyone did so well that we were both the champion school outright and also when school enrolment was taken into account.

A big thank you to the many Somersby parents who readily stepped forward to act as timekeepers.

Special congratulations to Reiley Squires and Charlotte Taylor for being senior girls and 11 years girls champions respectively.

The following students broke Small Schools’ records at Tuesday’s carnival:

- Cody Mattocks, Charlotte Taylor, Alie Phelan, Gryffyn Stevenson, Corey Craig, Laura Scarr, senior girls relay, junior girls relay and senior boys relay.

Students who have qualified for the zone carnival to be held at The Peninsula Leisure Centre on Monday 7th March received information on Friday. Please return the permission notes as soon as possible.

Neil Mitchell

Book Club

Book Club brochures are coming home today. Please have all school and online orders in and finalised by Friday March 18th. Thank you.

Kate Padgett

Somersby School of the Arts Hall

Somersby School of the Arts Hall committee is asking for community input into possible usage of the hall. We are asking you for ideas for programs and possible contacts for groups who may be interested in hiring our hall.

We think our hall would be great for Yoga, small dance groups, painters and other artists. Perhaps you would like to have an exhibition of your own work. Maybe you are in a craft group, like quilters or scrap bookers who are looking for a room to use. Or perhaps you are interested in starting a book club, local history or movie appreciation group. These are just a few suggestions.

Whatever ideas you may have, or groups you may belong to, we think our space may be perfect for you. Please forward any suggestions or enquiries to Sharon Peruch at speruch@bigpond.net.au or contact by phone on 0417875726.
**P&C News**

**AGM & P&C general meeting**

The AGM will be held at 7pm tomorrow night in school library, followed immediately by the monthly general meeting. At the AGM, the 2016 officers will be appointed. Please come along and consider standing for a position. Some of the members of our current team have reached the end of their maximum three-year term, so we really need more people to become involved in the P&C.

Without a P&C, many of the support services which the school and its families rely on would not be provided. Along with fundraising, these include our canteen and uniform shop. P&C roles include president, vice president (x2), treasurer, secretary (can be split into minutes and correspondence), publicity officer, canteen officer, fundraising officer, uniform officer, Central Coast Council of P&Cs rep and Country Fair rep. Most roles don’t require a huge amount of time – especially if we have a group sharing the load.

If you’d like more information about any of the roles, see Nicki Ward or email somersby-pandc@gmail.com.

**P&C ‘101’ training**

Monday, March 7

If you are hesitant about taking on a P&C role, but aren’t sure what it involves, the Central Coast Council of P&Cs is hosting a training session for incoming P&C officers at 6pm next Monday at Berkeley Vale Public School. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the work of P&Cs in their local schools, to get detailed job descriptions and to connect with other P&C members from across the Central Coast.

**Service your car and support the Somersby Cookbook and multipurpose court**

A very big thank you to West Gosford business David’s Tyre & Auto, which has offered to donate half of the value of labour on any vehicle service when customers mention the Somersby multipurpose court project (which the cookbook is raising funds for). David’s Tyre & Auto is at 38 Dyer Cr, West Gosford. This is a very generous offer, and is part of the positive community spirit which is building around this project.

**Recipes, please!**

If you’ve been meaning to get a recipe in and haven’t quite got there yet, please submit it via the school office, by emailing somersbycookbook@gmail.com or via the website at www.somersbycookbook.com.au.

We’re all busy, so sometimes these things get put on the backburner, but it would be a REALLY big help if you could those recipes to us, so that we can move onto the next stage of production.
Please see our website for upcoming events & workshops: www.knc.net.au or phone: 4340 1724

I acknowledge and pay my respects to the Traditional custodians of this land we walk on, both past and present.

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**CANTEEN NEWFLASH**

**SPECIAL**

**for FRIDAY 4/3/16**

- Ham & Cheese Macaroni $4
- A bucket of crumbed chicken breast fingers choice of sauce (BBQ, sweet chilli or tomato) $3
- Slushies are back on $2.50
- Tub of frozen yoghurt $2.50

Please specify your child’s choices and have orders in Wednesday morning. Thanks. Kirrilly & Joey

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**Happy Birthday!**

Hayley Breannah Odin

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**Year 6 Tuck Shop**
 Tuesdays at Recess.

- Jumpies, Poppers
- Noodle Snacks
- Ovalteenies

Most products 80cents

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**Worthy Daily Living**