



Somerville Intermediate School

Newsletter No. 1 - 3 February 2012

NEWS INSIDE ...

Term Dates - 2012; Welcome; Staff 2012; School Newsletter; Meet the Teacher Evening; Health Issues; Traffic News; Personal Presentation; Technology & Specialist Programmes; Homework; Buses; Biking to School; Absences/ Contact Detail Changes/Telephone Calls; School Donation; Swimming Sports; School Canteen; EastZone After School Care; Community Notice

TERM DATES - 2012

Term 1: Wednesday 1 Feb - Thursday 5 Apr
Term 2: Monday 23 Apr - Friday 29 Jun
Term 3: Monday 16 Jul - Friday 28 Sep
Term 4: Monday 15 Oct - Tuesday 18 Dec

Dear Parents/Caregivers

WELCOME

Welcome to the new school year! I trust that you have had an enjoyable Christmas holiday.

The school year is off to a very good start. The staff are to be congratulated for their hard work over the Christmas period in order to have programmes ready for the new year. All the classes are underway and the students seem to be settling in well.

STAFF 2012

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff this year; Rochelle Stansfield (eLearning Facilitator), Sarah Baleicakau (Lead Teacher of the LEAP Centre), Nicola Beekhuizen and Matt Hansen.

We are pleased to have these staff join our team and I am sure they will all make valuable contributions.

A list of all staff and contact email addresses is available on our website under 'Contact Us'.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Good communication is very important to us and we will try to keep you fully informed of school events and issues. The newsletter will be sent home electronically each fortnight, usually on a Wednesday. Please ensure our school office has your current email address. We will forward a hard copy to those students each fortnight who do not have an email address.

To view upcoming events, please go to our School Calendar, under 'What is on' on the home page of our website. Events are updated regularly.

MEET THE TEACHER EVENING

A "Meet the Teacher" evening for parents will be held on Wednesday 15th February at 7.15 pm. We will meet in the gymnasium for 45 minutes first and go to classrooms after that. The "Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)" ICT scheme will be discussed. We look forward to seeing you there!

HEALTH ISSUES

If your child has any significant health problems, please ensure that their teacher and the school office are made aware. This is **very important!**

TRAFFIC NEWS

Please note, it is **LEFT TURN ONLY** out of the loop road onto Somerville Road between the hours of **8.00 - 9.15 am** and **2.30 - 3.15 pm**. The loop road should not be used as a drop off and pick up point before and after school as buses require access and the loop road can become extremely congested.

We request parents drop off and collect children further up Somerville Road or at the Meadowland Drive entrance to the school. Please help us to ensure children use the designated pedestrian crossings.

Please note: Road patrol times at Meadowland Drive are: 8.10 - 8.30 am and 2.55 - 3.15 pm. The back gate will be locked each day after road patrol. If the gate is locked, please use the Woodgers Way walkway.



PERSONAL PRESENTATION

We take pride in the manner in which our students wear their uniform and present themselves. Not only is it an important skill in later life to present well and appropriately for the circumstances, but we also believe that smart presentation helps the students to feel positive about themselves. The rationale for our school's policy on personal presentation recognises that a dress code supports the development of school spirit, loyalty and a sense of belonging among our students.

The students were very well presented on their first day of school. Full, correct uniform is expected at all times and this includes footwear and hats.

At our first assemblies, we have spoken to the students about personal presentation. We have reiterated some of the main considerations such as no make-up, hair colouring, extreme hair styles or hair products. Also wearing the uniform correctly, particularly shorts at waist height for the boys and shirts are to be worn out over the shorts.

For safety reasons no jewellery is worn and students are reminded that hair over the collar or longer needs to be tied back, with a small hair tie that matches the uniform, and only one plain gold or silver stud worn in each ear lobe. One point stressed to students is that the regular school day is not the place for fashion statements and that there are other occasions that are appropriate for different standards.

It is important that your child has their PE gear every day. We strongly encourage the wearing of **sports** shoes for physical education. It is also imperative that they wear shoes during specialist technology sessions. **ALL clothing needs to be named.** Students are reminded that the school hat **must** be worn when they are outside, during terms one and four.

I have asked the teachers to monitor students' presentation at the beginning of the year to ensure we set and maintain high standards. We appreciate your help by ensuring your child is appropriately dressed when they set out for school in the morning.

TECHNOLOGY & SPECIALIST PROGRAMMES

The specialist technology programmes commenced on Thursday this week.

HOMEWORK

Our homework policy is designed to allow students to consolidate their learning at school and to develop good work patterns and habits. The guideline for time is 45 minutes per night from Monday to Thursday. In some cases, a week's work will be given on Monday and the students will need to plan to complete it over the week.

BUSES

The Howick & Eastern Bus Company is running a service to and from the school. Buses service the Cockle Bay, Dannemora and Botany areas. You can contact Colin Schofield at Howick & Eastern Buses if you have any queries (Ph: 273 3660).

Mr Paul Bennett, our Bus Controller, can answer any queries regarding the Ministry buses which service the Whitford, Beachlands, Clevedon areas.

BIKING TO SCHOOL

If your child rides to school, please ensure they know the road code and wear a helmet at all times. At the start of the year children can get excited and it is important they adhere to the road code and ride considerately and sensibly. Please sign a note giving permission for your child to ride to school and send it to their teacher. Students will be issued with a Bike Licence.

Bikes are to be wheeled within the school grounds.



ABSENCES/CONTACT DETAIL CHANGES/TELEPHONE CALLS

It is **imperative** you notify the school office as early as possible if your child is away from school for any reason. The school **must** also be notified of any changes of address or contact details ie mobile phone numbers/email.

Somerville operates a "check safe" system. Should the school not receive notification of a child's absence, an automated text will be sent to the primary caregiver's mobile phone number. The primary caregiver will then need to phone or email the school as to the reason for their child's absence.

It is also **imperative** that your child sign in/out at the school office if they arrive late or leave the school grounds for any reason.

The office telephone is available for students' use for "**urgent**" calls only. A charge of 20c per local call and \$1.00 per mobile will be made for the use of this phone.

SCHOOL DONATION

The school year is now underway and an exciting educational programme has started for the year for your child. It is well documented in the media from time to time, that most schools require a contribution from parents and caregivers to enable them to survive financially and offer the level of education we all want for our children. This level of contribution has been as high as \$750 ***for some schools*** and comes under a variety of names. Whatever it is called, the object of the contribution is to offer a high level of education within the financial means of the school.

The Board of Trustees has set the contribution at \$305.00 this year. This total contribution qualifies for tax relief under the Donation rebate.

The school donation includes activities directly related to the curriculum at our school, such as Safekids first aid training and school swimming sports. These activities are a direct cost to the school and all students participate. The school donation also pays for materials used in the technology and specialist programmes and helps provide a superior level of resources, particularly technology, musical, sports equipment, library resources and teachers for ongoing special programmes.

The school magazine is a separate cost and has been set at \$14.00 again this year. Throughout the year there will be extra curricula activities such as year 7 camp, year 8 EOTC, a class field trip and sports team trips that will be charged on a user pays basis.

While the school would prefer to receive the total contribution in one lump sum, we recognise that for families with more than one child at school this can be a financial burden and if you would like to make arrangements to pay in instalments, we welcome your approach to set this up

Accounts will be posted early next week. A receipt will be issued on payment for tax purposes.

Thank you for your support.

*Board of Trustees
Somerville Intermediate School*

SWIMMING SPORTS

The Year 7 and Year 8 swimming sports will be held at the Papatoetoe Pools, Sutton Crescent, Papatoetoe, on the following dates:

Year 8 Wednesday 14 March
Year 7 Thursday 15 March



A separate letter with more detailed information will be sent home shortly. All parents and caregivers are most welcome to attend.

SCHOOL CANTEEN

Libelle Group operate our canteen. Orders need to be placed at the canteen before school and will be delivered to classrooms at lunchtime. A menu is available on our website under 'School Info'. Snacks can be purchased at morning interval and lunchtime.

EASTZONE AFTER SCHOOL CARE

An after school care programme is available at Somerville Intermediate for those who require it. The service is based in the school library and runs from 3-6 pm each day of the school term. We welcome children either on a casual or regular basis.

Information booklets and enrolment forms may be collected from the information stand in the school office, or please contact Jocelyn on 021 239 5680 or by email at ezasc@clear.net.nz

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Table Tennis Club at Somerville Intermediate School will resume on Friday 10th February in the school hall. Anyone is welcome to learn and have fun. **Time:** 3.15 - 5.00 pm. **Cost:** \$5 per session. First time is free! Contact Steven Zhu on 021 181 5531 or email zhuhui@xtra.co.nz See you there!

Howick Hornets Rugby League Club Registrations - all ages - new members welcome
Thursday 16 February from 5.00 - 7.30 pm & Wednesday 22 February from 5.00 - 7.30 pm
at Paparoa Park, Paparoa Road, Howick. Email: howickhornets1@gmail.com

Kind regards

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Principal

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