Junior School Inter-House Swimming Carnival

Once again, this past Tuesday, our Somerset Junior School students took to the pool to battle it out for the Years 3 to 6 Inter-House Swimming Carnival. With brand new House banners on show for all to see, the grandstand was awash with colour and surging with energy and enthusiasm.

All students who participated did themselves and their House proud. It was inspiring to see students trying their absolute best in the pool, as well as cheering on their team mates. The 31 degree heat did not waiver the determination and House spirit of our young swimmers. Congratulations to Anthony Graham, Bessie Dear, Josie Hanson and Raiden Kyaw, who all broke records.

- Bessie broke the 10 Year Girls 100m Freestyle record 1.18.72;
- Anthony broke the record in the 10 Boys 100m Freestyle 1.20.26, 50m backstroke 45.39 and 50m Breaststroke 49.88;
- Raiden broke the 9 Years 50m Breaststroke 54.57 and
- Josie broke the 8 Years 50m Breaststroke 1.13.57.

This year we had the privilege of having two Olympians, James Roberts and Yolane Kukla, to present the Age Champion medals with Mr Bassingthwaite.

8 Years Girls
1. Alanja Thomasson
2. Josie Hanson
3. Maxine Stewart

8 Years Boys
1. Denver Bannerman
2. Liam O’Nuallain
3. Bailey Pourre

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9 Years Girls
1. Lucy Collins
2. Ella Slawinski
3. Jodie Lin

9 Years Boys
1. Raiden Kyaw
2. Tristan Vasquez
3. Anson Qu

10 Years Girls
1. Lilli Hodge and Bessie Dear
2. Hayeon Byun

10 Years Boys
1. Anthony Graham
2. Bowen Mansell
3. Alex Jordan

11 Years Girls
1. Oria Mougrabi
2. Jenna Miller
3. Evie Harcourt and Alice Jones

11 Years Boys
1. Luke Shirley
2. Isaac Rogers
3. Harry Walters

12 Years Girls
1. Elise Mundy
2. Kaelyn Dolan
3. Ashlee Park

12 Years Boys
1. Phoenix Kyaw
2. Matthew Leal
3. Fergus George

Could Laver go back to back and win again? It was a very tight result, with only 29 points separating 1st and 2nd. The results of the 2017 Years 3 to 6 Inter-House Swimming Carnival were:

1. Starkey
2. Laver
3. Andrews
4. Veivers
5. Franklin

It was fantastic to once again see the support from the parents assisting as timekeepers. Carnivals such as this would not happen, nor run as smoothly as they do, without the assistance of these volunteers. I would also like to thank to Parents’ and Friends’ Association for running the canteen and keeping everyone well-fed and refreshed. I know it was a hot place to be up there in the back of the grandstand; the free fruit you provided was a generous initiative and very much appreciated by the students and staff.

I would like to congratulate all students for their efforts and thank all of the staff for their assistance. I would also like to thank Mr Andrew Michael for his organisation and co-ordination of another smoothly run carnival.

The APS carnival will be held at Somerset College, Thursday 16 February starting at 9.00am. Good luck at all our swimmers!

Troy Zernike
Assistant Head of Junior School - Pastoral and Operations
CorreCtion

Apologies for the error in the Headmaster’s article in the Somerset Times of 3 February. It was in fact our Academic Captains, Nalin Batra and Jina Hong who lead the Senior School Assembly and negotiated the names of the recipients of the Cum Laude Awards superbly. To Nalin and Jina, our sincere apologies for the error and congratulations on a job well done.

Craig Bassingthwaite
Headmaster

Scholarships for Entry into Years 7, 10 and 11 in 2018

Scholarship testing registrations for Years 7, 10 and 11 in 2018 are now open.

Full details are as follows:
Date of testing: Saturday 25 February 2017
Time of testing: Commencing at 8.30am
Registration fee: $72.00
Closing date for applications: Friday 17 February 2017

Registration is via the College website. Follow the link in the Announcements section on the homepage.

Scholarships Available
• Year 7, 2017 Academic, Music and General Excellence
• Year 10, 2017 Academic, Music and General Excellence
• Year 11, 2017 Academic, Music and General Excellence

Copies of reports, NAPLAN and Curriculum Vitae should be emailed to enrolments@somerset.qld.edu.au by Tuesday 21 February 2017.

John Bacon
Dean of Admissions

Opening of Confucius Classroom

Last Wednesday 1 February we saw the opening of the new Confucius Classroom at Somerset College. Our fantastic hosts Archie Jones and Amelie Martin did an amazing job; only in Year 3, they memorised their lines and presented the ceremony wonderfully.

With performances from Pre-Prep to Year 5, including songs and dances and a lion dance to top it off, it was an exciting morning. Special thanks go to Griffith University; how lucky we are to have a Confucius Classroom in our College and opening in the Year of the Rooster!

Alice Jones
Year 6G
**POSITIVE EDUCATION**

At Somerset, in addition to teaching the academic curriculum, we also teach the skills that children need to optimise their wellbeing. There are two main reasons we are focusing on this area.

Firstly, in recent times there appears to be an increased prevalence of mental health issues within the adolescent years; and schools are well-placed to address some of these issues. Secondly, there is growing evidence that higher levels of wellbeing correlate with improved academic performance.

‘Uplift’ is a programme we are trialling with our Year 11 students in 2017 as part of our move toward implementing elements of Positive Education. The College, in partnership with parents, aims to continue to nurture students’ character strengths and empower students emotionally, socially and psychologically. The programme focuses on equipping students with the tools required to flourish rather than just be happy.

Happiness is thought to be a somewhat simplistic mental state and relates to feeling good and having positive emotions; however, we don’t necessarily have these good emotions all of the time. Happiness certainly contributes to wellbeing but it is not the definition of wellbeing.

Flourishing, however, is a more complex notion and is a combination of feeling good and functioning well. Functioning well includes the ability to manage our thoughts, feelings and behaviours, and to reflect on our experiences. This state allows us to make better choices and to develop resilience in the face of challenges, and also to contribute to the wellbeing of others. Flourishing certainly incorporates happiness and positive emotions but, as adults, we all know there are times in our lives we experience negative or painful emotions such as sadness, loss and disappointment. Flourishing is about learning to manage these emotions effectively rather than trying to avoid them.

I think it is safe to conclude that we, as teachers and parents, want more for our children than just positive emotions ... we want them to thrive and flourish.

It is hoped that elements of this programme will stimulate conversation at home between you and your child. As we progress through the programme, more information will provided via Somerset Times. If you have any questions or feedback regarding the programme, Dr Adrian Johnson would love to hear from you.

*Sally Leslie*
Senior School Teacher

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**Maths and Performing Arts?**

While some members of the Maths Department have a passion for Musicals and the Performing Arts, this is not an article about the singing and dancing maths teacher! Instead it’s a snapshot of an initiative the Maths Department have been developing over the past year – Maths Lectures - and the venue just happens to be the Performing Arts Theatre.

For many advocates of contemporary education, lectures are usually relegated to the online environment, such as YouTube and Khan Academy, but for students at Somerset College, the Maths Department is increasingly using the lecture format to deliver key concepts and information to multiple classes.

The majority of classes are taken in their respective classrooms, however there are occasions, such as when students are receiving assignments, when all the students benefit from receiving the same message. This is best achieved using the lecture format. This week the Year 11B Maths students had their first lecture for the year in the Performing Arts Theatre on the topic of Modelling Linear Functions. The lecture was delivered by Mr Abdou and Mr Wally Broader, however there was also input from the other 11B teachers, Mr Kemp and Mr Turner. There were plenty of moments too, when the students were able to engage in conversation and attempt problems themselves.

One of the best aspects to the Maths lectures is it brings the whole subject together and allows the students to see the other subject teachers interacting with each other and sharing knowledge. Whether it be in The Ray Building Dining Room or the Performing Arts Theatre, the lecture environment provides a fresh perspective from the traditional classroom and gives students an insight into how much of their tertiary education will be delivered.

*Ash Abdou*
Head of Department - Mathematics
Safeguarding at the College and in the Home

Has anyone noticed those tiny labels on their products around the home? Check your Mortein cans, Draino and WD40 containers and you will notice pictograms (diamond shapes containing different pictures) that clearly deliver warning messages to us indicating that this seemingly harmless supermarket product has the potential to harm you and your family’s health, or the health of our environment.

As of 1 January this year, these pictograms (which previously came in a confusing variety of colours and pictures) have been officially harmonised globally; this means that they will all look the same wherever you are in the world. The old labels will soon be phased out!

So what do they mean? Here’s an easy guide for the main pictograms you’ll find around your home:

**Corrosive:** This product may cause chemical burns on contact, which can range from mildly irritating to permanently damaging! Contact with this substance can cause serious damage to your skin and eyes.

**Warning:** This includes the potential to cause acute toxicity (particularly harmful if swallowed), an allergic reaction, and eye, skin and respiratory irritations.

**Health Hazard:** Repeated or prolonged exposure to this product may result in long-term health effects, including cancer, birth defects and organ dysfunction.

**Acute Toxicity:** Ingestion, inhalation or contact with skin by this product may cause immediate health problems. Symptoms can range from mild to fatal.

**Environmental Hazard:** This product will damage or kill fish and other aquatic organisms in our waterways if disposed of incorrectly.

**Flammable:** Whether this is a liquid, solid or gas, it is a substance which will easily catch fire and burn.

In the Science laboratories here at Somerset College, the students use a wide variety of chemicals. All of the bottles containing chemicals whether a stock concentration or the diluted solutions made up by the laboratory staff are all labelled with the appropriate pictogram(s).

Starting in Year 6, students are educated by our amazing science teachers on the potential dangers of each of these products. They are advised about the correct personal protective equipment to use while handling them, and are given thorough instructions to ensure they follow a safe protocol.

At the beginning of each year students are reminded of safety rules within the laboratory, and are tested on them to ensure they fully understand the importance of these rules. Don’t be surprised if your children start reading your containers at home, and advising you on what protective gear you need to wear and how to handle the product more safely!

Eleanor Amores and Kirsty Holmgren
Science Laboratory Manager and Science Laboratory Technician
Advancing in Leaps and Bounds

Congratulations to Alexandra Gerrard! Last year, Alex completed her Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Advanced 1 examination.

Just before the end of the year, Alex received her results and was excited to see that she had been given a Distinction for her efforts. A very high distinction as well! Alex now has sights firmly sent on her Advanced 2 examination which she will hopefully undertake later this year. Well done, Alex!

Sue Roberts
Head of Department - Performing Arts

A Show for the Year

Tuesday saw the 2017 Show Choir perform at the College Chapel Service. This is the first performance for this group with its new members.

The group has had one rehearsal and the performance as part of the Chapel Service shows that they are well on track to complete some outstanding performances throughout the year. Congratulations must go to the new members of the group who have stepped up admirably to the task at hand. Well done to all!

Sue Roberts
Head of Department - Performing Arts

A Concerted Effort

Last Friday saw the Senior Concert Band make their first airing for the year at the 2017 Investiture Service. The group provided the processional and recessional for the stage party as well as accompanying the hymns for the service.

As the group has only had two rehearsals (interrupted by various swim trials) this is quite a remarkable effort for so early in the year. Congratulations must go to all of the group. Members of the group will also be participating in the Chapel Services for the various Houses over the next couple of weeks. They are also preparing for their end of term concert, on Tuesday 28 March in Towers Quad.

Sue Roberts
Head of Department - Performing Arts

Senior Sports News

This week we begin Winter Season sports trials and prepare for next Monday’s Inter-House Swimming Carnival. Two days after the Inter-House Carnival, we will host the APS Swimming Carnival.

Bianca Crisp, Open Water Swimming
Bianca competed at the Australian Open Water Championships held at Brighton Beach in Adelaide from 27 to 29 January. She elected to swim in the Open Women’s 10km event as it was a selection event for the Australian Open Water Team. She did very well to finish 5th Australian, narrowly missing out by just one place for selection on the Australian Open Water Team to go to the World Cup at Abu Dhabi. The following day, Bianca went on to compete in the 17/18 Women’s 5km event and won gold.

Bianca has been selected to attend the Swimming Australia Open Water Development ID Camp at Lake Conjola, Ulladulla in New South Wales from 5 to 10 February. Open Water swimmers are selected across Australia to undergo specific open water training to develop their skills and education with coaches, nutritionists and sports psychologists.

Bianca was also selected on the Queensland Open Water Team to travel to New South Wales for their Open Water Championships held at Penrith from 19 to 20 December. She competed in the 17/18 5km event and placed 2nd.

Continued over page...
Senior Sports News Cont.

Sport This Week
Friday 10 February
• 12.50pm: House Meetings
• 1.15pm: Winter Sport Trials (1 of 3)

Sport Next Week
Monday 13 February
• 11.00am to 4.00pm: Inter-House Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 15 February
• 9.00am to 2.30: APS Swimming Carnival

All sporting details are posted on Schoolbox on the Sports page.

Shane Lunniss
Director of Sport

To read this week’s Add Infinitum, click here.