This week, we celebrated the Cum Laude Award winners from Junior and Senior Schools for Semester Two 2015. The Cum Laude Awards were introduced in 2009 to recognise those students who achieved at the highest level in at least half of their subjects.

It is wonderful to see the numbers of students excelling on a day to day basis and being rewarded for their efforts.

The achievements of our students in their internal assessments have direct correlation to any external assessments, a validation of the professional capabilities of our teachers and curriculum leaders.

Our Academic Captains, Kenta Arichi and Catherine Gerrard, ran the Senior School Assembly in a timely fashion, negotiating the names of the recipients superbly. It is a credit to all our students how quickly they settle to the New Year and its new tasks.

The Class of 2016 had their Investiture today after their Investiture Dinner last night. The evening as enjoyed by the Senior Class who were presented with their ties by me and their Senior Jerseys by the Year 12 Co-ordinator, Miss Lisa Connell. Of course, the greatest gift was the presentation of the Year 12 badges to the Class of 2016 by the Class of 2028, the Preppies. A precious moment for both classes.

Our new Sport Facilities Precinct is nearing completion. The barricades have come down and the staff involved are receiving training, setting up their work areas and getting prepared for what promises to be a magnificent addition to the Somerset Experience.
FROM THE HEADMASTER CONTINUED

Please keep your eye out for details in future editions of Somerset Times, Schoolbox or the Somerset App. You can definitely mark Saturday 5 March from 10.00am to 1.00pm in your diary for an Open Day to see these facilities, hear about programmes we are offering, take tours, maybe even shoot some hoops on the new Olympic-standard courts!

Jumping Castle, face painting, sausage sizzle ... all in the lovely new surrounds of the Fitness Centre and Courts.

Craig Bassingthwaigte
Headmaster

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ENTRY INTO YEARS 7, 10 AND 11 IN 2017

Scholarship testing registrations for Years 7, 10 and 11 in 2017 are now open.

Full details are as follows:
Date of testing: Saturday 27 February 2016
Time of testing: Commencing at 8.30am
Registration fee: $72.00
Closing date for applications: Friday 19 February 2016

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

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 23 February 2016.

John Bacon
Dean of Admissions

YEAR 4 ORIENTATION DAY

On Friday 29 January, the Year 4 classes spent the day having an Orientation Day. They started the morning with a Bootcamp challenge from Urban Survivor, followed by four rotations around the Year 4 teachers in mix and mingle groups.

The idea behind the day was to provide students an orientation into the Primary Years Programme and to introduce some of the vocabulary that this programme uses. The language of Concepts – Learner Profile – Global Mindedness – Central Idea were introduced in a hands-on way in classroom learning engagements as a provocation to the new academic year, and to allow students an opportunity to begin their journey into the Year 4 curriculum.

Nicole Fann
Year 4F Teacher
Thank you for your support! 2015 has been a very successful year for our community and one of the highlights for your P&F was to see the concept of a second hand shop, manned by volunteers, become a reality.

As you are aware, our Pop-Up Shop is now selling pre-loved uniforms and includes an area where parents, new and old, can come along for a cuppa and meet new friends. We ‘popped up' again during the first week of school and thank everyone who came along to Koala House for your support and hope you enjoyed the coffee and conversation. We are very pleased with the increased quality of the uniforms that are now available for purchase. Your P&F plan to open at least two days per term, dependent on demand and stock on hand.

If you wish to donate uniforms surplus to your needs, these may be placed in the collection box outside the Events Office (at any time convenient). All donations are greatly appreciated by the Somerset Community and we thank you in advance, for your generosity. We also understand that you may wish to offer them by consignment, however, this is only possible if you visit the Pop-Up Shop when open to complete the paperwork.

Your P&F Committee all agreed that to ensure the continued successful operation of the Pop-Up Shop, processes and procedures are to be streamlined and respectful of the contribution of parent volunteers. As an alternative, we encourage you to place an advertisement online at www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au.

If you have any queries in relation to the Pop-Up Shop please do not hesitate to send us an email at parentsandfriends@somerset.qld.edu.au.

On a final note, if you are attending tonight’s Celebration of the New School Year - Welcome to 2016 function in Towers Quad, we are looking forward to seeing you at this enjoyable occasion.

Parents’ and Friends’ Association Meeting
Our first meeting of the year will be held next Tuesday 9 February, 6.30pm in The Arnison Building Boardroom. All parents are automatically members of the Parents’ and Friends’ Association and warmly welcomed. If you would like to attend, please send us an email prior to the meeting.

Josie Kay
President – P&F Association
**FROM THE COLLEGE CAPTAINS**

Hello everyone and welcome back! We trust you all had a relaxing holiday and are ready for another busy year.

The year started at full speed with House Swimming Trials commencing in Week 1 and each House readying their swimmers to compete in the always exciting annual Inter-House Swimming Carnival. Franklin House achieved their hat-trick of wins in this field last year so every House is hungry as ever to knock them off their pedestal.

As well as the excitement in the pool, there is also activity in the Performing Arts Theatre stirring. The House Plays auditions commence and each House is ready to battle it out on stage in the House Plays Festival. A personal favourite of ours, these student-directed plays are guaranteed to have you in stitches so we strongly encourage you to head to the Performing Arts Theatre in Week 6 for a laugh.

Later in the busy term an exciting event is the Celebration of Literature, which brings together some of the best authors in the country to share their stories and inspire another generation. There will be literature, music and food across the three-day festival, making it one of the most highly anticipated events of the year.

In Week 3 the Year 7s are the first to head off on camp to Mount Tamborine, which is set to be a week of enjoyment with many new friendships being made. They are then followed by the Year 8s and 9s in Week 8, who are heading off for a fun-filled week developing their problem solving skills as they orientate themselves around the bush land and discover the challenges of living in a tent.

This term is certainly a busy one, however we urge you to take as many opportunities as you can. Finally, we would like to say how grateful we are to have been given the opportunity to lead the College this year as Captains and if you need any assistance we are always in our common room to help you.

Best of luck for Term One.

Duncan Hossy and Olivia Bourne
College Captains

**PERFORMING ARTS NEWS**

As with all the other areas of the College, the Performing Arts Department started at full steam ahead and has continued that way throughout the first fortnight. Rehearsals for all the ensembles and House Plays are underway and both the Junior and Senior School Musicals are already in the throes of rehearsal for their shows.

**Another Welcome to Staff**

We would like to welcome Mrs Alicia John to the Co-curricular Department this year. Mrs John is joining us to teach piano and will join our piano teaching team with the burgeoning piano enrolments we have. She is also replacing Mrs Katherine Bartlett. Mrs Bartlett is not able to join us this year. We are sure all will give Mrs John a warm Somerset welcome.

**Performances**

This week has seen some of our ensembles already performing in the College Community. The Brass Ensemble have well and truly brushed the cobwebs from their instruments and used their skills at the Senior School Cum Laude Assembly by accompanying the National Anthem. Today saw the Senior Concert Band contribute during the Year 12 Investiture Service. The band provided the processional and recessional as well accompanying the hymns. It just shows how quickly the students slip back into the groove of playing and how adept they are at getting ready for performance. Well done to all!
**Performing Arts News Continued**

**House Plays**
The House Plays productions are well and truly underway, with casting having taken place and rehearsals happening in various spaces in the Performing Arts Theatre. All cast members are encouraged to keep abreast of their rehearsal commitments - this is a collaborative process in which every member of the House team is important for the success of the final production. Rehearsal schedules have been given to all cast members, and can also be found on Schoolbox.

**Co-curricular Lessons**
Co-curricular lessons should now be settling and the majority would be in their lessons. If you have enrolled students and they have not yet received lessons or been notified of their times please contact co-curricular@somerset.qld.edu.au so this can be followed up.

**Dance and Cheer Lessons**
Dance and Cheer lessons should also have now settled and all classes well under way. The times and venues for the lessons can be found on the College website, under the tab Student Life. When an enrolment has been placed, students are welcome to attend the next scheduled lesson. If there is a problem with class size, parents will be notified, so, please have students attend after submitting the form. There will be no formal notification of acceptance into class. All queries regarding dance lessons are to be emailed to dance@somerset.qld.edu.au.

**Congratulations**
The following students have received awards for their outstanding results in their examinations last year. These students have received the top marks in Queensland for their levels. Congratulations and well done to all!

**Preparatory**
- Gold – Nicola Swainson
- Silver – Rhea Dawson, Darcy Halloran, Abigail Van Den Brink, Raahul Ramani, Jessica Jeffriess, Liam Kiddle

**Elementary**
- Gold – Emmeline Anthony
- Silver – Sasha Hanford

**Preliminary**
- Gold – Sofia Arase
- Silver – Victoria Huang, Mia Huang

**Grade 1**
- Silver – Sophie Darben

**Grade 3**
- Gold – Aaron Lim

**Grade 4**
- Gold – Nik Frauenfelder
- Gold – Jenna Goldie

**Grade 6**
- Gold – Bill Carrett

**Grade 7**
- Gold – Declan Roberts

Sue Roberts and and Katrina Fisher  
Director of Music and Director of Theatre Arts
Achieving Balance for Academic Performance

Many of the seniors and staff at Somerset College will encourage you to participate in co-curricular activities at the College, but what do you have to gain from this? At first glance many co-curricular activities may look like huge commitments which will get in the way of your academics.

If you ask anyone who has participated in the activities offered at the College, they will tell you how much fun it is. By doing these activities you will forge friendships and create so many incredible memories. Just keep in mind that when you leave school you won’t remember all of the times you studied for an exam, rather you will remember the memories and bonds you have formed over the years. Furthermore, extra-curricular activities are a great way to:

- **Learn Time Management and Prioritising:** You will learn about time management and prioritising the commitments and academics, which becomes an increasingly important skill in the senior years and tertiary studies.
- **Reduce Stress:** By interacting with your friends and teachers or doing an activity you love you will help you de-stress, which can help achieve focus for your academics.
- **Enhance Academic Performance:** Extracurricular activities help develop areas of the brain that may not be utilised by school work, as well as developing skills such as creative problem solving and teamwork.

Despite these fantastic benefits, doing too many activities will be detrimental to your academics. Everyone is different so it is important you find the balance between extra-curricular activities and academics. Remember that school can be fun if you choose to make it that way, so Catherine and I encourage you to participate in any of activities that interest you before it’s too late. If you would like any information or advice on what activities to choose, feel free to see either one of us or any of the other Year 12s, we will all be very happy to help.

Kenta Arichi
Academic Captain

Clover Connect

Clover Connect continues in 2016. Aimed specifically at our Year 10 students, the Ready Reader programme sees your son or daughter sitting with a child from Clover Hill State School (Wednesdays 8.00am to 8.30am) to support them with their reading.

I have written to all Year 10 students through the Daily Notices this week and hope parents will encourage their children to be involved. The commitment for our students will be for about five weeks during Semester One, with a new group of students involved in Semester Two.

Should you wish for your child to be involved with Clover Connect in 2016, please ask them to see me in the Head of House - Laver office as soon as possible.

Dane Oman
Head of House – Laver
The start of the year is a busy time for Hinterland Trials. Students are urged to check Schoolbox and the daily notices for all upcoming events.

**Bianca Crisp, Open Water Swimming**
Bianca competed at the New South Wales Open Water Championships as part of the Queensland Open Water Team on 19 and 20 December. Bianca won both the 5km and 10km events in the 16 Year Girls and placed 3rd in the Open Women’s 5km in a personal best time of 1.00.10sec, competing against international swimmers from Japan and New Zealand. Bianca has also been selected on the Swimming Australia Open Water Talent ID Team from her recent results. She will attend the Swimming Australia Talent ID Camp at Mooloolaba from 17 to 20 February.

**Ava Luxford, Cheer**
Ava’s team placed 3rd at the National Cheer Championships. A great achievement for the team who had only all trained together for less than six months prior. It was a huge event and hectic time in Melbourne, with more than 20,000 cheer leaders in town! She has now started training in an open-level squad for the global championships in Hawaii. She’s the youngest member of the team; many of her team members are over 19 years.

**Halle and Mayla Sigh, Running**
Halle placed 4th and Mayla placed 5th in the Under 18 Mixed Gift Sprint Race at Bundall on Australia Day.

**Marina Ishii, Baseball**
Marina played at the Women’s National Championships (Under 16 - she is only 13 years old) in Canberra and pitched 4th to 7th inning at the Grand Final for Queensland against Western Australia. Unfortunately they lost the game and finished as runner up. On the following week, Gold Coast (Marina was the only girl) Under 14 mixed team came second in the State title.

**Nathaniel Soh, Tae Kwon Do**
Nathaniel will be travelling in February to the United States with his coach and a few team members to participate in several Tae Kwon Do competitions in Reno and Montreal (Canada). Nathaniel achieved his first degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do in July 2015. He has a keen interest in this sport, particularly in the sparring arena. He has competed in State and National competitions since 2013 and has done well in them. He achieved gold in his weight category at the Nationals in 2013 and 2014.

**Riley Cameron, Sailing**
Riley made the Gold Fleet this year, which was capped at 62 boats as a total of 124 boats competed. He finished 49th at the Nationals.

**Regional Swimming Nominations**
All those students who wish to qualify for the South Coast Swim Trials must see Mr Lunniss for paperwork. (Hinterland Trials no longer exist. Qualification is through the APS Carnival and paper nominations for other events).

**Winter Sports Sign-ups**
Rugby, Netball, Soccer, Hockey, Tennis and Volleyball are available. All students have been sent an email with a link to select their sport. If you make an error or change your mind, you must go to the Sports Department.

**Swimming Practices**
Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7.30am. Meet Mr Butcher at the pool.

Continued over page...
Senior Sport Continued

Student Injuries
If your son or daughter is injured at school sport, it must be recorded at the time by the College Nurse/medical person present if parents wish to apply through the College insurance policy. If delayed signs or symptoms arise over the weekend, students must notify the College Nurse on Monday morning.

Sports Information
Don’t forget to check the Schoolbox Senior School Sport Page as well as the noticeboard at the end of The Smith Building for all sports notes. If you need more information, drop by the Sports Office.

This Week
Friday 5 February
• 12.50pm: Sports Assembly
• 1.15pm: House Swimming 100m Races

Next Week
Friday 12 February
• 12.50pm: House Meetings
• 1.15pm: Winter Sports Trials (1 of 3)

Swimming Season Dates
• Friday 5 February: Somerset House Swimming 100m Events (1.30pm to 3.00pm)
• Monday 15 February: Somerset House Swimming Carnival (1.00pm to 6.00pm)
• Wednesday 17 February: APS Swimming Carnival (9.30am to 2.30pm) at Somerset
• Monday 29 February and Wednesday 2 March: South Coast Swimming Trials (4.30pm to 9.00pm) at Southport

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

Shane Lunniss
Director of Sport