Welcome to Senior School – Let’s Go Camping!

Last week many of our long-term Somerset students joined our new-to-Somerset students on Mt Tamborine for a week of bonding, combined with adventure and personal challenge.

Hopefully by Friday last week our new students felt like they have been at Somerset forever and our older students feel like they’ve made some new friends. Based on their engagement in the activities, I certainly couldn’t tell who was new and who was old. One new student made a point of telling me that “everyone at Somerset is so friendly”. Starting at a new school can be a stressful time and I’m proud of our students when I see them make everyone feel so welcome.

The weather gods shone on us this year, and while I often write after a camp that the inclement weather served to make us more resilient and grow as people I, and all the other happy campers were very relieved that we didn’t face those tests of endurance this year. The weather was fantastic.

The whole of Year 7 can feel very proud of their efforts. The staff were astounded at the politeness and niceness of the group. Parents deserve a pat on the back; you can all feel very proud of your children, as not one student gave us cause to consider our chosen career path. From the Monday, where setting up a tent and sharing that tiny space with a new friend is a big challenge, to the adventure-based activity days on Tuesday and Wednesday, through to our House activity day on Thursday where the student leaders join us in a day of activity, or sleeping, in Dr Brohier’s meditation session. We were amazed that all students embraced the challenges with good humour through sleep deprivation and tiredness that would have challenged an SAS recruit.

Continued over page...
Welcome to Senior School – Let’s Go Camping! Continued

For students whose ages range from 11 to 12 years, the prospect of abseiling, or high ropes or eating vegetables can be met with catatonic fear, yet this year all students gave every activity an attempt and many overcame extreme fears to undertake the challenge of the abseil. That first step backwards over the cliffs edge always gives you an adrenaline rush, regardless of how many times you’ve done it.

The final and greatest challenge for many students is the Camp Concert, and while those students who chose to so cleverly mimic certain staff (I will gain my revenge on Year 8 camp) showed the ultimate in bravery, everyone played a role and contributed and that’s all we ever ask.

Congratulations, Year 7. You are delightful group and I look forward to enjoying your company for the next 6 years.

Craig Sayer
Dean of Activities

Overwhelmed by Somerset Community’s Generosity

Community spirit is alive and well at Somerset! The Parents’ and Friends’ Association has been very busy over the last couple of weeks organising the Junior, Senior Inter-House Swimming Carnival and Junior APS canteens.

A great display of teamwork with many parents volunteering their time to ensure it ran efficiently. Their efforts were rewarded with plenty of good humour abound. Thanks to everyone involved for your assistance. The students were a pleasure to serve, as they were all very polite and obviously enjoying the festivities.

The number of families who generously donated lollies, muffins, cakes, chips and biscuits overwhelmed us. Special mention to the anonymous person who donated $50 at the start of the Junior School Carnival so that our children could be given free fruit during the carnival. Your P&F Committee, who met the following day, agreed it was a great gesture and all agreed to provide free fruit at all future sporting carnivals. Whoever you are, your incredible act of kindness has left a lasting legacy (we would love to hear from you). Feedback from parents and students was extremely positive and appreciative.

On another note, if you would like to peruse Minutes that have been recently read and passed by your Committee, they can be found within Schoolbox, under the Parents’ and Friends’ Association Group page. Our next meeting is scheduled on Tuesday 8 March, 6.30pm in The Arnison Building Boardroom.

Of course, we can’t go without thanking the Events, Ray Building and Maintenance teams for their professionalism and invaluable assistance.

Josie Kay
President – P&F Association
MEET THE STAFF

Over Terms One and Two 2016, we’ll ask our Junior School staff a few questions about themselves. We invite you to learn what they have to say in their answers below!

1. Your name? Linda Keefer
2. Your role in the Junior School? Junior School Receptionist
3. How long have you worked at Somerset College? 12 years
4. What do you like most about your job? I love everything about my job. I love all the children and everybody that I work with.
5. Favourite Food? Sushi
6. Favourite colour? Blue
7. What other job would you like to do if you were not doing this job? Maybe something artistic, like a florist or jeweller
8. What person inspires you the most and why? Rosie Batty - 2015 Australian of the Year.
9. Favourite quote? “Stop worrying - nobody gets out of this world alive” – Clive James

1. Your name? Catherine McDonald
2. Your role in the Junior School? Administrative Assistant
3. How long have you worked at Somerset College? 10 years
4. What do you like most about your job? I like the creative freedom and variety of tasks as well as the wonderful staff and students at Somerset College.
5. Favourite Food? Mexican
6. Nickname at your primary school? Cathy
7. Favourite colour? Yellow
8. What other job would you like to do if you were not doing this job? Novelist
9. What person inspires you the most and why? JK Rowling for giving the gift of imagination and the joy of reading to a generation.
10. Favourite quote? “Logic will get you from A to Z, imagination will get you everywhere.” – Albert Einstein

1. Your name? Louise Woods
2. Your role in the Junior School? Junior School Administrator
3. How long have you worked at Somerset College? 17 Years (but left and came back twice in different roles)
4. What do you like most about your job? I love my job diversity and the interaction with children, parents and colleagues.
5. Favourite Food? Middle Eastern
6. Nickname at your primary school? Woody
7. Favourite colour? Yellow
8. What other job would you like to do if you were not doing this job? Wedding Planner
9. What person inspires you the most and why? There are many people who inspire me but I feel Turia Pitt shows extreme resilience and courage.
10. Favourite quote? "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present" - Bil Kearne


**Prep Discovers Who They Are**

Prep friends have started the year by learning more about who they are and what they can do for our first unit of inquiry related to the transdisciplinary theme, “Who We Are”.

Students will be exploring their physical characteristics, how their body works and investigating their family background. Children will experiment with the concept of connection and inquire into the related concept, ‘identity’. Prep friends will also enjoy a Fruit and Vegetable Puppet Show and a visit from Healthy Harold.

Throughout the inquiry, students will be risk takers by presenting information about their family to their class and knowledgeable learners when they apply new information about the way their body works. It has been wonderful to see students so busy and engaged during our first inquiry!

Sonia Louis-Punch  
Junior School Teacher

**Wellbeing Programme**

On Thursday this week, students in the Senior School engaged in the first of at least seven special sessions planned this year which, together, form part of our Wellbeing Programme.

The activities presented are outlined below:

- **Year 7** – What makes a good friend?
- **Year 8** – The role of conversations in promoting harmony with the family
- **Year 9** – Beyond differences
- **Years 10 and 11** – Paul Dillon follow-up (alcohol and other drugs)
- **Year 12** – The Examined Life (delivered next week)

We encourage you to discuss these sessions with your child over the weekend. Of course, we welcome any feedback about the activities.

Adrian Johnson  
Head of Senior School

**From Broadway to Somerset College – Junior Musical**

Don’t be surprised if you see big, bright green ogres walking around Somerset College!

This week in the musical rehearsal, we have made great progress with our acting and choreography. All the cast have been putting an extra effort to make this musical a comical experience.

The Chorus is absolutely amazing – they seem to change their character on stage. The rats seem to be real rats! I bet you couldn’t tell it was your friend on stage. The Dulocians turn into human dolls that are perfect – because Duloc is a perfect town of conformists – thanks to the rule of Lord Farquaad (Geraint Evans).

Overall this musical is going to be fantastic! Just three weeks into practice and we are starting to perfect songs. This is astounding progress! Well done to the cast in *Shrek The Musical JR*. From Broadway to Somerset College, the countdown is on with only five weeks to go until the curtain is drawn for the first performance. It’s going to be a smash hit so don’t forget the dates - Sunday 20, Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 March.

*Continued over page...*
FROM BROADWAY TO SOMERSET COLLEGE – JUNIOR MUSICAL CONTINUED

It was great to see a full attendance on Saturday with the first two scenes well underway with great performances by all. The Dragon played by (Iona Radcliffe) stole the show, strutting the stage with her diva performance.

Thank you to all our wonderful teachers and Mr Taylor for their dedication to producing another fabulous musical this year. A big thank you to Lilly and Sebastian for giving up their time to assist with choreography and performances.

So, break a leg between now and 20 March!

Darcy Beynon and Karma Bathols
Junior School Performing Arts Captains

YEAR 7 CAMP – A YEAR 12 PERSPECTIVE

On Thursday 11 February, 16 eager and enthusiastic Year 12s ventured up to Mount Tamborine to become better acquainted with over 100 Year 7s. Immediately upon arrival, many of us travelled back in time to our very own camp at Mt Tamborine.

However, everything seemed to look a tiny bit smaller than it did when we were there ... except the senior boys. We went from orienteering with Mr Grocott and Mrs Smith to ‘boxercise’ with Mr Whish, to surprisingly strenuous yoga with Dr Brohier. All of the Year 12s took relief in meditation to distract themselves from impending assignments. One anonymous Year 12 became so relaxed that they even fell asleep! After morning tea, we did some fitness with Mr Jones followed by a very beneficial first aid lesson.

A highlight was definitely helping the Year 7s to prepare their play for the Year 7 Camp Concert. Veivers started the night off with ‘I’m a Year 7 – Get Me Out Of Here’ where we laughed hysterically while they pretended to swallow worms and struggle without Wi-Fi. Starkey were next, with their version of ‘The Real Housewives of Melbourne’, where every part was valued from the cross-dressing boys to the incredible acting by the lamps. Andrews followed Starkey’s impressive performance with a play that had us all relating to the perils of Year 7 Camp. Laver then had us all giggling at the impressions of various teachers in ‘Teachers’ Got Talent’. The judges were very impressed by the dramatic finesse of the Franklin cast creating the Disney Castle and the ship from Titanic in ‘Movies Gone Wrong’. However, there had to be a winner and Laver took out the prestigious award for their accurate representations of Mr Sayer, Sensei Kamei and Mr Whish-Wilson (or Mr Swish-Wilson).

Finally, it was time for what we had all waited five years for: the Seniors’ Performance. A very mature melodrama of the adventures of Yoda: the creature who began life as Simba and decided to become a Mermaid to live ‘Under The Sea’. Shortly after, Yoda then fell asleep and found himself as ‘Sleeping Beauty’ with an attempted kidnapping by Robin (who was robbin’) and Hood (from da hood). Completed with a very relevant performance of ‘We’re All In This Together’ where Pikachu was played together (and literally together as Siamese twins) by Harrisen and Bill. The play is expected to receive many accolades at the upcoming Academy Awards.

Special thanks from the Seniors to the catering staff for the great food. I don’t know if we were just hungry from trying to keep up with 12-year-olds, but we all filled our plates once, twice or even three times. It was made even better by the wonderful staff serving us at each meal. Meal times were great for sitting with our Year 7 friends to get to know them better.

Continued over page...
**Year 7 Camp – A Year 12 Perspective Continued**

After 14 hours of living the life of a Year 7 on camp, we all decided two things:

1. It takes a lot of energy to survive one day of Year 7 Camp, and
2. The teachers must be supermen and superwomen to endure an entire week of camp and not topple over with exhaustion after just one day.

Especially the incredible Mrs Rowe, who was still smiling and energetic after five days of being ‘Chief’. We also cannot forget Mr Sayer, who not only helped co-ordinate our visit but also all the camps we have enjoyed over our Somerset journey. Our hero for the day, however, was Mr Walker, who woke up earlier than we as 17-year-olds can imagine and drove a 24-seater bus down Mt Tamborine whilst on second gear. A tremendous amount of effort and we are all incredibly grateful to be allowed to step away from our books and enjoy the wilderness with the Year 7s. Before Year 7 Camp the Seniors knew only a small amount about the Year 7s (mostly their names). Now, we laugh together at the memories we share with the Class of 2021.

Elizabeth Kay
College Vice-Captain

**Year 11 Visual Arts Explore Identity and Culture**

On Wednesday 10 February, the Year 11 Visual Arts class were privileged to work with local indigenous artist Lisa (Sorbie) Martin.

During a 2 hour workshop on Identity and Culture, Lisa was generous and open in sharing her Torres Strait Island background with the students, exploring themes of self, connections and family to jump start the Year 11 with their own unit looking at Substance and Perception through a focus on Identity.

Lisa’s amazing body of work ranges from traditional painting, textiles, weaving, to printing and ceramics. Her range gave the students invaluable insight into how one artist can develop a wide range of working media, yet still retain a strong personal aesthetic throughout, something the students will be striving to develop for themselves.

As a class, we would like to thank Lisa for her generosity of spirit during the time she shared her passion with us all.

Selena Muscat
Visual Arts Specialist

**Acing Your Assignments**

It’s that time of the year where the assignments are flooding in and occupying your time. But you want all of that time to be used as effectively as possible so that you have some free time to enjoy.

Below are some tips that can help you achieve higher grades on your assignments more effectively:

1. **Read the Criteria Sheet:** Teachers constantly emphasise this and it can be easily ignored. But think of it from a teacher’s point of view; your grades are not just an arbitrary grade based on how much they liked your assignment. Rather, they are marking you off of what is required of you to demonstrate your skills and abilities in a subject. The more closely you meet the requirements, the better your grades.

2. **Ask Questions about the Criteria:** A common thing to do after reading the criteria sheet is to ignore it for its complicated wording and ambiguity. The teachers can elaborate what a certain word in the criteria means and how you can achieve that. With more practice you will become familiar with your criteria, so do your best to ask as many questions while you can.

Continued over page...
**Acing Your Assignments Continued**

1. **Proofread:** Make sure that what you have written is easy to follow and logical. It makes it easier for the marker to see your understanding of the subject in the assignment.

2. **Backups:** I am sure that many of you have experienced a computer crash which corrupts your assignment, leaving you back to square one. It is so important that your time and effort does not get wasted, so back up on a USB or a cloud service like OneDrive or Google Drive and back them up periodically.

These are only just a few things you can do to help improve your marks. But in the long-term, these skills will serve you well in your further studies. Try and lay a good foundation now so that in the future, these recommendations become a habit so that you won’t lose these skills. Most importantly, even if you are disappointed with your marks, take on the feedback and try to understand what you did wrong. With this mindset, I have no doubt you will continually improve your academics at the College.

Kenta Arichi  
Academic Captain

**Meet, Eat, Drink, Speak German**

Willkommen zum Kaffeeklatsch! Kaffeeklatsch is an informal lunchtime gathering for German students in Years 10 to 12.

‘Kaffeeklatsch’ means to ‘gossip over coffee’ and that is exactly the idea. It is a chance for German students to converse in German outside of the classroom, in an informal, social setting. It is a fantastic opportunity for Senior School German students to meet, enjoy a drink and some German snacks, all while practising their German speaking skills!

The ‘Thema der Woche’ (topic of the week), provides a basis for the conversation and is taken from the German Senior School curriculum programmes, to ensure students are maximising their knowledge of relevant themes and vocabulary studied. Topics include family, leisure, health, environment and more.

Students will develop confidence, learn from others and realise that it is ok to make mistakes! The Kaffeeklatsch group provides a safe, supportive and enjoyable environment for students wishing to enhance their German language skills.

**Details:**
- Tuesdays, 12.20pm to 12.45pm
- The Bird and Bush (Retail Centre) (look out for the German flag!)
- German snacks and treats are provided. Students may contribute to this or simply bring their own lunch.

**Advantages**
- A chance to speak German outside of the classroom setting
- Enhance confidence in speaking skills
- Meet and converse with German students from Years 10 to 12.
- Deepen understanding of German culture
- Expand vocabulary and knowledge of various topics
- Leadership opportunity for seniors and native speakers

For further information contact Mrs Ciappara or Mrs White, and keep your eyes out for the Schoolbox page - coming soon!

Luisa Ciappara  
Senior School Teacher – German
**Starlight Fun Run**

To support the children's charity, *Starlight*, the IB cohort organises a fun(draising) run at night. It's happening again this year, and we'd love for you all to join us!

It's going to be an amazing night, under the *starlight* we shall run. But not just run, we shall dine, with a fine selection of food stalls which we promise you won't *run* out of food during the night. There will be contests, with prizes, there will be games, fun games, there will be challenges. All this and so much more!

If you're interested, it's happening on the evening of Friday 22 April, save the date. Specific times and details will be announced closer to the event, so keep an eye on the notices, and your email. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Year 12 IB Diploma Students

**Maths Tutoring**

The Somerset College Maths Department runs a one hour session each week for students seeking assistance with maths outside of class. Students are welcome to bring along any questions they are struggling with or want to explore further.

While they tend to become popular just before assessments and exams, these sessions are open to students throughout the year during term time, and all students are encouraged to attend. “*I can ask questions without being embarrassed*”, says a Year 9 student.

Maths Tutoring is on every Thursday afternoons from 3.30pm to 4.30pm every week, during term time and is located downstairs in the SLC building. Depending on numbers, Seniors (Years 11 and 12) are sometimes located upstairs in the SLC rooms, while the Juniors (Years 7 to 10) are in the computer labs below. “*The teachers are so helpful, patient and kind*”, reports a student from Year 11.

Maths tutoring not only provides an opportunity for students to seek assistance with their maths work, but it also provides a place to study and complete maths work in a supervised environment. A Year 12 Student comments, “*I enjoy learning maths and improving myself*”.

Students are encouraged to bring maths work to Maths Tutoring and can stay for part or all of the session. “*It’s fun and I needed something to do on Thursdays*” – Year 7 Student.

Ash Abdou
Head of Department – Mathematics

**Performing Arts News**

This week has seen the close of auditions for the Senior School Musical. Casting is now in the process of happening. These auditions were for principal roles only. Any students are more than welcome to join the cast at the Thursday lunchtime and Thursday after school rehearsals.

The musical is open to any Senior School students and no audition is necessary to be part of the chorus. Information regarding the rehearsal schedule can be obtained from any of the Performing Arts staff at the College and can be seen on the notice board in the breezeway next to PA 24.

*Continued over page...*
Upcoming Performances

Next week see the continuation of the House Chapel Services, with Laver (Monday 22 February), Starkey (Tuesday 23 February) and Veivers (Thursday 25 February). Musicians from these Houses will be participating in the worship at the Service. Students are reminded that they will need their instruments on the appropriate days. Students will need to be in attendance no later than 5.15pm on their respective evenings for set-up purposes.

Next Monday 22 February sees the Junior School musicians as members of the Melodic Mynas choir take their place in participating in their Chapel Service.

House Plays

Last weekend saw the first of the House Plays Sunday rehearsals. Students have all received information regarding the expectations at these rehearsals, and have all been given permission forms which parents should have seen and signed. This Sunday, the House Plays casts once again have a Sunday rehearsal which will run from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Students are reminded to keep directors informed if there is a necessary, but unexpected, absence from these Sunday rehearsals.

The Surfer and the Mermaid

This beautiful production is really starting to take shape with the young cast working very hard to produce an exceptional show. If any parents are keen to assist with any preparation over the coming weeks, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Katrina Fisher.

Performances

This week has seen some of our smaller ensembles participate in the Chapel Services. On Tuesday evening, a band of instrumentalists from Franklin House contributed to the Franklin House Service by accompanying the various hymns and songs throughout the Service, as well as a group of young choristers who performed an anthem. This was quickly followed on Wednesday evening by an equally talented group of instrumentalists and choristers from Andrews House, who contributed to their House Service. The Chapel Choir and Band has now become an established part of the House Services. It is quite remarkable to see these young people in action, especially as we are so early in the year. Well done to all those young musicians!

Sue Roberts and Katrina Fisher
Director of Music and Director of Theatre Arts

Silver Medal for Rowers at NSW Championships

The Somerset Girls Under 16 Double Scull of Jade Mansell and Madizen Wilkins led the way, bringing home a silver medal from the New South Wales Rowing Championships last weekend.

The duo also made the final in the Under 17 Girls Quad Scull along with their team mates, Katherine Plume, Hannah Neumann and coxswain Blake Mills. Jade also made the final of the Under 16 Single Scull where she finished in 5th place.

A group of 18 rowers travelled to Penrith to race on Australia’s premiere rowing course, competing in a variety of events including single, double and quad sculls, as well as trying their hand at the school coxed four. The racing was at an extremely high level, which saw three of our crews just miss out on qualifying for finals.

The rowers gained much experience over the weekend, managing the sweltering conditions well to produce some of their best performances.

As always, the rowers represented the College proudly. I would like to thank co-coach Alison Barry and team manager Jacqui Sina for their assistance over the course of the very busy weekend, which saw the students arrive back on the Gold Coast late on Sunday night.

Andrew Butler
Head Coach – Rowing
### Senior Sport News

This week saw Somerset host both the Senior School Inter-House Swimming Carnival and the Junior and Senior APS Swimming Carnivals.

#### House and APS Swimming Results

For Inter-House carnival results, [click here](#). Keep an eye out in next week’s *Somerset Times* for the full results from the APS Carnival, held this week.

#### Yukimaro Ii, Tennis

Yukimaro has been selected in the South Coast Under 19 Boys Tennis Team. His Australian men’s ranking has gone up to #286, compared to about #800 this time last year. Among those born in 2000 born, he is ranked 3rd in singles and overall (singles and doubles combined) 4th in Queensland at the moment. The top two boys are full time players who don't go to school, so he is the 1st in schools’ singles ranking.

#### Regional Swimming Nominations

Students will be notified shortly if they have qualified for the regional trials. These will be held on Monday 29 February and Wednesday 2 March (4.30pm to 9.00pm) at Southport.

#### 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 in the new Sports Precinct.

**Add the Sports page link to your Schoolbox:**

- Go to “My Links” at the bottom left of your *Schoolbox* page and click ‘Edit’
- At “Manage my Links”, click “+” at the top right of page
- Paste the link below and add title “Senior School Sport”:
  

#### Next Week

**Monday 22 February**

- 3.30pm to 5.00pm: Hinterland Trials #4

**Friday 26 February**

- 12.50pm: Sports Assembly
- 1.15pm to 3.20pm: Winter Sports Trials (2 of 3)

#### Week 6

**Friday 5 March**

- 12.50pm: Sports Assembly
- 1.15pm to 3.20pm: Winter Sports Trials (3 of 3)

**Saturday 5 March**

- 10.00am to 1.00pm: Sports Precinct Open Day

Shane Lunniss  
Director of Sport
A LEAP OF FAITH

At the end of the month, an extra day is added to the calendar to incorporate 29 February. This means that 2016 will be comprised of 366 days, making it a leap year.

The reason for the adjustment is to do with the rotation of the earth around the sun, or for those pre-Copernicans amongst us, the rotation of the sun around the earth. An ‘ordinary’ year contains 365 days but the period of the earth’s orbit is roughly 365 and a quarter days, so if there was no adjustment, the seasons would be displaced by about one day every four years.

Julius Caesar reformed the calendar in 46 BCE after consulting with the Greek astronomer Sosigenes of Alexandria. Until then, the Romans had a more complicated system to keep pace with the required correction; they alternated years of 355 days with years containing an extra, intercalary month of either 22 or 23 days. The Julian calendar, with an extra day every four years, worked well but over the years there was still a slight variation because the earth’s solar orbit actually takes 365.2425 days. By the 16th Century the discrepancy in the dates amounted to ten days and this had practical implications for the Catholic Church and their festivals, especially Easter, which used 25 March in its calculations.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII modified the calendar again so that every 100 years would NOT be a leap year unless the number was divisible by 400. The year 2000 was a leap year but 2100 will not be one. This changed the mean calendar year from 365.25 days to 365.2425 days, an error of just 0.002%. The Gregorian calendar then deleted the ten days in 1582 from 5 to 14 October but not all countries adopted this system immediately. In Protestant Britain, it was another 170 years until they came in line with the new Catholic calendar, although by that stage they then had to delete eleven days to catch up.

Sweden made their own adjustment in 1700 by gradually losing 11 days over a period of time but after making a mistake, they corrected it in 1712 by creating a unique 30 February. People born on that day were destined to only ever have one proper birthday celebration and then they would hardly remember it for themselves.

The probability that someone in a population was born on 29 February is 1 in \((4 \times 365 + 1)\) or 1 in 1461. The Somerset student population has now reached 1490, so by the law of averages there is a good chance that one Somerset student is a ‘leapling’, celebrating their birthday on that day - and we do! Just one student has a birthday on 29 February. Calen Tang in Pre-Prep will be four years old on that day, although it really will only be his first birthday. At that rate of progress, he will graduate from Year 12 when he is four.

Wait a minute! What about a leap second? Last year we added an extra second to the official atomic clocks. This is to allow for the change in the speed of rotation of the earth on its own axis as it slows down (a little bit) due to tidal friction. Since this system was implemented in 1972 a total of 26 leap seconds have been added.

Andrew Wrigley
Senior School Mathematics Teacher