Dear Parents,

Well here we are halfway through term one already. We have had a wonderful start to the year and it is delightful to see how much our children have grown and developed over the long break. Some of the boys have grown so tall it is very surprising to have to look upwards to see a child when you used to bend over to speak to them. This is one of the great things about teaching. We all love to see our students grow and change and develop.

Term one is always the shortest depending on where Easter falls and this year we will be finishing the term the day before Good Friday which is Thursday 28th March. All term dates are now on the website so be sure to put the term starting and finishing times in your diary.

Earlier this term Luc had the pleasure of doing something he has never done before. He played the piano so we could all sing Happy Birthday to Hector who is having his first birthday. We always sing for any student or staff member who is having a birthday but Luc said it was the first time he had to do it for a dog. That’s one of the great things about Sherbrooke I guess. Hector got lots of pats and attention that day and looked so cute in his party hat and big badge telling everyone it was his birthday. Soon he will be going into the centre for his assessment to see if he will become a working dog for the Guide Dog Association. We will miss him if he goes but Leanne has indicated she would be interested in getting another puppy to raise.

On Thursday the 14th of February there was a whole state teacher strike of both state and Independent schools. There was a lot of coverage in the media of this ongoing dispute and we hope that it will be speedily resolved as we are all finding it very hard to work to the 38 hour week as every school in the state is doing. Teachers do an enormous amount of unpaid work over and above the 7.6 hours per day in the award. Every time a teacher goes on a camp or overnight excursion they are on duty for the whole time, 24 hours of the days away. Most preparation of lessons and marking of students’ work is done in the teachers’ own time. There is very little time during the day to prepare as they are dealing with the day to day details of teaching a full load of classes. We don’t mind! We chose teaching because we wanted to make a difference and teachers genuinely want their students to have the best resources and teaching they can have. There are not many jobs where you work directly for your employer for many hours over and above what you get paid for with no remuneration. We want this dispute settled so we can go back to what we do best – teaching your children.

We understand how this affects you personally and sympathise with your concerns. Many teachers are parents themselves and have the same issues of childcare on strike days as we are required to attend the rallies in whatever centre is closest to us. We do this to support our claim, support our colleagues and to push the dispute towards a resolution. Let’s hope that we can see an end to this very soon. I am very lucky
with the staff I have at the school. They are struggling with getting everything done within the 38 hour week and I constantly have to tell them to go home as the time is up.

This year we are focusing particularly on homework, study skills and attendance/punctuality. If a child is constantly late to class in the morning it is very disruptive to the rest of the group who have already started the work and to the teacher who has to go over the instructions and the content that has been missed. Students miss a huge amount of information if they are constantly late for class. Teachers are unable to constantly reteach material that has been missed through lateness or repeated absence that is not for medical reasons. Homework is a regular thing and all students will have homework. It will be helpful to have a quiet place for students to do homework and study to enable it to become a regular habit. Please consult your child’s year level leader if you have any questions about homework or any concerns at all.

Our Team Leaders this year are:

- Prep – 6 Leanne Strachan
- 7 – 9 Jacqui Wiltshire
- 10 - 12 Joel Cordwell
- VCAL Luc Menolascina

Our canteen manager Yasmin would be very happy if there were parents who would be available to help out at lunchtime on a regular basis. It need not be every day. If we had 5 parents who could do once a week it would be fantastic. The time needed is from 1pm – 1:30pm. Yasmin does all the preparation in the morning and it is just a matter of handing out the lunch orders and serving those who line up. It does not take very long at all.

Keep an eye on the website for up and coming events. We will be having our usual Working Bees which go a long way towards keeping our grounds looking tidy and cared for. Please let us know if you have any special skills which would be useful in the school. We are always on the lookout for people who can offer help around the property. Denise is delivering Environmental Science and Conservation and Land Management (CaLM) as part of both VCAL and VCE this year and would be grateful for any assistance in those areas. We are always in need of help in the vegie patches. One of our students, Andy is having problems with the possums eating his pumpkins before they are ready to be picked. If anyone can help out with a solution or help him put some netting to keep them out that would be very helpful.

Don’t forget to make the website a regular place to visit.

Anne Broadribb

Meet our new teachers.
Hi, I am Nick and I am new to Sherbrooke Community School. This year I am teaching VCE Outdoor Education, Year 7/8 Maths and History and Year 9 Physical Education. In my past years as a Teacher I have worked at a number of different schools including Lilydale Secondary College, Norwood Secondary College, and Bayswater West Primary School last year teaching Grade 5/6. In my time away from school I enjoy going surfing as much as possible, and also playing football and tennis. I am look forward to getting to know all of the students and having a great year.

Liz Isaacson

Hi! I am Liz Isaacson and I am so excited to be joining the Sherbrooke Team for 2013. Growing up in America, near Seattle, I immigrated to Australia in 2001 to study Zoology and then Teaching at James Cook University. Travelling around Australia with my built in tour guide and husband, Rodney, has been a wonderful experience so far. 2012 was an eventful year for my family and I, moving from Queensland to Victoria to be closer to family, and welcoming our wonderful daughter Emily in April. Having a year off to focus on Emily was an amazing experience, but now I am ready to be back at work.

2013 is going to be an exciting & challenging year for the mathematics department at Sherbrooke, I am looking forward to exploring new types of learning and assessment for the 7-12’s to help us have our best chance at success. Mathematics can be very exciting and enjoyable when we try out best and have a positive outlook. Be prepared for a little homework and some mathematical excitement.

"Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas." Albert Einstein

CLEAR CLUTTER FOR A CAUSE.

Our school is participating in the SIDS and Kids Victoria – Red Bag Superstar Event.

Your children will be bringing home a Red Donation Bag which we ask you to fill, plus any additional bags with any unwanted Men’s, Women’s, Children’s Clothing, Curtains, Linen, Shoes, Toys, Books, Bric-a-brac, and any Small Household items as we will be receiving a rebate for the amount of kilos returned for all soft items donated.

The Campaign commences on 13 February 2013 and can you please return your donations by 13 March 2013.
Please contact the office if you require any additional bags.
What goes on at night?

Focus on Nocturnal Fauna

In & around your area

Local wildlife expert Ed McNabb brings us a unique perspective on the nocturnal comings and goings of the wildlife in our area. Come and hear about some of the common (and not so common) visitors to our gardens in the dead of night!

Images: Alex Maisey

ALL WELCOME - family friendly event

Where: Monbulk Hub (Moores Road entrance)

When: Thursday 14th March, 7.30 pm arrival for 7.45 pm start

Followed by Monbulk Landcare AGM

Light supper provided

9.30 pm finish

Enquiries: 9756 6977 (Bill)
RUGBY LEAGUE has arrived in the Eastern Suburbs!

Registration Day
Sun 3rd & 17th March
10 am - 1 pm
Colchester Reserve, Boronia

Boys & Girls: 6-16 yrs
Fees from $80 inc. Uniforms & Melbourne Storm Membership
(EFTPOS Available)
www.easternraptors.com.au