Dear all,

Exams have been completed, reports written and the Christmas shopping began, all signs that the end of the school year is here. As we approach the end of the year it is so pleasing to reflect on all the great work that has taken place at Sherbrooke Community School. This last term alone has been witness to many significant school events: Year 12 graduation, the subject selection process, and the HeadStart program for students Year 9 to 11 and so on.

Well done to all the Year 9 to 11 students who were involved in the week-long HeadStart program. The HeadStart process is one that is vital to the successful transition of our students to the next year level. Students experienced a variety of taster activities and received information regarding courses, work that will set them up positively for 2014 and, in many cases, introduced them to their subject teachers.

It is also important to note the success of our Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) program introduced two years ago. Many students are returning to complete a higher level of study at Sherbrooke in 2014. Next year will see the introduction of the senior level for a number of our students. Well done to the students and thanks to their teachers for their great work in progressing this initiative.

Charlotte Wiltshire, one of our very bright Year 10 students has successfully obtained a Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholarship. The application for the Kwong Lee Dow young scholars program was a very difficult process. It included a series of questions that required evaluation of her life achievements to date and what she wants to achieve in the future. Over 2000 people applied with only 700 students being accepted. The scholarship funds Charlotte to attend different events over the next two years at Melbourne University in preparation for Year 12 and meet other students who have also qualified for the scholarship. Congratulations Charlotte.

Our Year 5/6 students spent a week at the Forest School Education Centre, housed in the historic kiosk at the bottom of the Kokoda Track/1,000 Steps in Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground, the base for the National Park’s education program. The park’s diverse forest types, ranging from cool temperate rainforest, tall Mountain Ash forests and dry shrubby forests, make a wonderful classroom for students to explore and learn in. Most of the activities provided hands-on experience that enabled the students to explore the park in a fun and stimulating way.

Nine very tired students and teachers returned from this year’s GVBR (Great Victorian Bike Ride), exhausted but very pleased with their accomplishment of riding 610 kilometres from Mt Gambier to Geelong.
Congratulations to all, especially Denise Dempsey and Stuart Pearson on organising such a successful event. Many have started talking about next year’s bike ride already!

Recently our Year 7 to 11 students returned from a four-day camp at Adanac, situated in Yarra Junction. The fantastic variety of activities, many of which were water-based, kept students and teachers busy. This was a most successful camp, with staff and students sharing great experiences. Thank you to Jacqui Wiltshire and Stuart Pearson for their great work in organising the program and to the staff who attended. Without their support activities such as these would be difficult to run.

Late in the term saw the welcoming of our new Year 7 students during Orientation Day. The newcomers joined with our Sherbrooke students to experience a day of taster subjects in preparation for their smooth transition into Year 7 2014. Welcome to all our new students.

This term saw the introduction of Sherbrook Community School’s Breakfast Club. A very generous donation instigated by Michael Wiltshire, a parent, from Hallmark Cards have facilitated the serving of toast and fruit Tuesday and Thursday mornings before the beginning of the first lesson. Eating breakfast is important for everyone, but is especially so for children and adolescents. According to nutritionists, children who eat breakfast perform better in the classroom and on the playground, with better concentration, problem-solving skills, and hand-eye coordination.

In late November, students from across most year levels of the school, cooked, served and cleared at the very successful Restaurant Night. The Spanish-themed menu was enjoyed by a small but very appreciative group of diners. The delicious food was beautifully and expertly served under the guidance of our Food Technology teacher, Aldo Carlino. A big thank you to Aldo for this time and dedication.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a safe holiday break and look forward to seeing all students return to school on Thursday 30 January, 2014.

Sue Holmes

Acting Principal
CALLING FOR HELP!

Community Garden

I am proposing that the big veggie patch and adjacent orchard be opened up to the community. This would also include the greenhouse. If anyone is interested or knows how to set a community garden up could you please let DD know. We will have a meeting in early February and take it from there.

Sheep and chickens

Over the last holidays I incubated some fertilized eggs and then reared 7 chickens (5 Plymouth Buffs and 2 Langshanks) – all are ‘show’ chickens as well as good layers. They have now settled nicely into the chook shed with brown tail, white tail and Lavender. HELP is required to feed and water the flock over the holidays. If you are available please contact DD – dempsey.denise.j@edumail.vic.gov.au Thank you.

The sheep have had a lot of problems with their legs being cut or caught up in things. They are now roaming once more – which is great. I will be asking for help next year to clean up the paddocks. There are a lot of weeds (thistles, lilies and mint) as well as rubbish. If you are able to help in this area I also would like to hear from you.

Primary News

As part of our community engagement the Prep-2 class have been visiting local Kinders in the area. Students have shared their experiences of school with the kinder children to help prepare them for the next big stage of their education. Florence, Scarlett and Callum went to The Basin Preschool where they shared their experiences of school and discussed the differences between chickens and ducks as The Basin Kinder have been raising ducklings. Krysta, Miranda, Noah and Oscar visited Sassafras Preschool where they were able to help celebrate a birthday and Oscar did a fabulous job reading a story to 20 squirming kinder children.

We hope to keep visiting these Kinders and more in the local area and hopefully they will be able to come and visit us too.
**Community Notices**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES in the Yarra Valley**

**Fun with food!**

**Zonzo Kids Pizza Masterclass**
Thursday 23rd January 2014, 11:00am – 12:00pm.
Includes kids masterclass, wood-fired pizza, soft drink and jelly.

**Contact:** Zonzo, 557 Healesville-Yarra Glen Road, Yarra Glen 3775, Ph (03) 9730 2500 www.zonzo.com.au

**Cost:** $20 per child (Children aged 5 - 12 years old)

**Pizza making classes at Mandala Wines**
Thursday January 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th starts at 12 noon. Parents enjoy a relaxing lunch with a glass of wine while the kids do the pizza making class.

**Contact:** 1608 Neba Highway Dikens Creek, info@mandalawines.com.au Ph 5965 2016

**Cost:** $60 for one adult and one child, extra child $20, extra adult $40

**Yarra Valley Chocolatier & Ice Creamery**
Meet Santa & his helper from 4pm-5pm Mon to Fri & 10-2pm Sat & Sun during December.

Junior Chocolatier classes (6-12 yrs) for 45 minute hands-on chocolate making workshop, $30

**Contact:** 35 Old Healesville Rd, Yarra Glen, Open 9-5pm every day (except Christmas Day) Ph 9730 2777 www.yvci.com.au

**Chocolate Making Classes in Olinda**
Learn from our experienced chocolatier. Suitable for all ages. Classes start from $60.

**Contact:** Wild Patch Chocolates Ph 9751 2576 www.wildpatch.com.au/classdates.html

**Aldente Cooking**
Cooking classes including pasta workshops, sushi, cup cakes & cheese cakes, apple pies and more.

**Contact:** Call Anna on 0422 280 975 www.aldente cooking.com.au

**Fruit Picking at Rayners Orchard**
Take the family on a Tractor Fruit Tasting Tour through fruit trees, sampling the freshest fruit.

**Contact:** Ph: 5964 7654 www.raynerstonefruit.com.au

Open 7 days a week, 8:30am to 5pm,

**Cost:** $64 normally $85
(2 adults 2 kids - extra kids @$14)

**U-pick Strawberries at Gateway Estate**
Pick strawberries in all weather conditions, indoor in a giant hothouse. Free entry, pay only for what you pick at $16/kg. 7 days per week from 9 to 5.30

**Contact:** 669 Maroondah Hwy, Coldstream, Ph 03 9739 0568 www.gatewaysstate.com.au

**Meet the Wildlife**

**Be a Sanctuary Keeper or Vet for a Day at Healesville Sanctuary**
Go behind the scenes and meet keepers caring for animals and take part in daily duties. Or work alongside vets on real life cases.

**Be a Keeper:** January 14, 15, 21, 22 $103 9.30am-3.30pm Students Year 7 to 12 Ph 9285 9406

**Be a Vet:** January 16, 23 $125 9.30am-3.30pm Students Year 7 to 12 Ph 9285 9406

**Meet the Predators:** Watch our thrilling Birds of Prey dive. Dingoes hunt for their next meet. Tawny Frogmouth swallow its prey whole, and a Tasmanian Devil feeding frenzy. Just make sure you don’t fall prey! Starts 21 December.

**Contact:** Badger Creek Road, Healesville VIC 3777 Ph: 5957 2800 www.zoo.org.au/holidays
**Arts and crafts**

**Fun Holiday Art Classes at Burrinja Arts Centre**
Join a 1½ hour class for 6 to 12 year olds. Make bears, stained glass candle jars, tie dye T Shirts, watercolours and more. Jan 7th - 23rd $16 - $20

**Contact:** Studio 2, Burrinja Arts Centre, 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey
Bookings 0449 654 343
www.www.burrinja.org.au

**Crumbz Craft January classes**
Learn to knit, crochet and sew.
2 hour classes suitable for children aged 8+ years.

**Contact:** 236 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville
Ph: 5962 6635
www.crumbz.com.au

**Artist demonstrations at Healesville Glassblowing Studio**
View the skilled and historic art form of glassblowing. Sculptures, chandeliers and jewellery are just some of the works regularly produced. Open Thursday to Sunday, 10am-5pm.

**Contact:** 416 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville
Ph 5962 2211 www.hgbs.com.au

**See a movie, exhibition and more in the region**

**Contact:** Memo Hall, Upper Yarra Arts Centre, Burrinja

---

**Kid friendly wineries**

**De Bortoli Yarra Valley Estate**
Dine in a child friendly restaurant with kids menu and playground outside.

**Contact:** Pinnacle Lane, Dinxons Creek
Ph 5965 2271 www.debortoliyarra.com.au

**Rochford Wines**
Relax in the café or patio. Children are free to explore the lawns and play with Frisbees provided.

**Contact:** 878-880 Maroondah Hwy, Coldstream 3770
Ph 5962 2119 www.rochfordwines.com.au

**Paynes Rise**
Historic homestead and grounds to explore.

**Contact:** 10 Paynes Rd, Seville
Ph 5964 2504 www.paynesrise.com.au

**Helens Hill Estate**
Family friendly restaurant and children’s playground.

**Contact:** 16 Ingram Road, Lilydale, Ph 9739 0222 www.helenshill.com.au

**Oakridge Wines**
New contemporary family friendly restaurant with play area.

**Contact:** 864 Maroondah Highway, Coldstream, Ph 9738 9900 www.oakridgewines.com.au

**Mandala Wines**
Family friendly restaurant, bocci court and large lawns to play.

**Contact:** 1568 Malba Hwy, Dinxons Creek
Ph 5965 2016 www.mandalawines.com.au

---

**Short walks in the Yarra Valley**

**Mt Donna Buang (300m to 6km)**
Enjoy the 40m observation platform through the rainforest canopy 15 metres above the ground. BBQs, picnic tables, lookouts and toilets available.

**Maroondah Reservoir Park (800m to 2.8km)**
Walk to the 4m dam wall, plus the reservoir spillway which regularly overflows during spring. Rotundas, BBQs, picnic tables, playground and toilets available.

**Badger Weir Picnic Area (1.1km to 1.4km)**
With the prospect of viewing wild lyebirds, take a walk around the weir. Rotundas, BBQs, picnic tables and toilets available.

**Ride or walk the Warby Trail**
One of Victoria’s most popular tracks, the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail is 40km in length. Why not plan your trip to end in Warburton.
Places to learn and play

Gulf Station
- largest Maize Maze in Australia!!
Have an ‘a-maze-ing’ time with the largest Maize Maze in Australia opening at Gulf Station. Open from 1 January for the Summer school holidays, the Easter school holidays and every weekend in between.
Contact: 1029 Melba Highway, Yarra Glen 3775
www.gulfstation.com.au
Cost: Adults - $15, Concession - $12, Children $9, Family $35

Blue Lotus Watergarden
14 acres of exotic lotus and waterlilies in two main lakes and ten islands. Open Boxing Day to early April.
Contact: 2628 Warburton Hwy, Yarra Junction
Ph: 5967 2061 www.bluelotusfarm.com.au

McKenzie Reserve, Yarra Glen
A new playground with incredible climbing equipment, monkey bars, wave slide, rope bridge, big sandpit, balance beams and more.

Get lost at Hedgend Maze
Solve the hidden messages inside the Giant Hedge Maze or try your luck with the Rainbow Maze or Frisbee Golf.
Contact: 163 Albert Road, Healesville
Ph: 5962 3636 www.hedgend.com.au

Warratina Lavender Farm
Stroll along rows of lavender species and stop for morning tea in the café.
Contact: 105 Quayle Road, Wandin
www.warratinalavender.com.au

The Big Bouquet
See over 60,000 colourful Gerbra flowers being grown in a large glass house and meet the friendly Alpaca’s on the farm.
Contact: Barak Lane, Healesville
Ph: 5962 2283 www.bigbouquet.com.au

Alowyn Gardens
Run around in 4 acres of gardens & play a giant chess board. Open weekends and public holidays.
Contact: 1210 Melba Hwy, Yarra Glen
Ph: 9730 2400 www.alowyngardens.com.au

A train ride on Yarra Valley Railway
Take a 45 minute ride departing on the hour between 10am and 4pm. Open Sundays, public holidays and Wednesdays during school holidays.
Cost: Adults: $15 Children: $9 Healesville Station.
Ph: 5962 2490 www.yarravalleyrailway.org.au

Healesville Night Walks
See the world’s largest gliding possum and the world’s tallest flowering plants on a night walk. Badger Weir Picnic Ground, Healesville.
Cost: Adults $35, Seniors $30, Children (6-16yrs) Full time students $25.
www.ecoadventuretours.com.au

Marysville for families!

Catch a fish at the Marysville or Buxton Trout Farms

Buxton Trout Farm
Variety of different ponds to fish in. BBQ facilities available.
Cost: $1 admission per child. Free for children under 5.
Contact: www.buxtontrout.com.au

Marysville Trout Farm
Free family entry on Tuesdays during the Summer School Holidays. Have a picnic or BBQ around the ponds. Fishing gear can be supplied or bring your own.
Contact: www.marysvilletrout.com.au

Lake Mountain Holiday Program
Partake in the school holiday program at Lake Mountain with laser skirmish, tube run, flying fox and more.
Contact: www.lakemountainresort.com.au

Visit Bruno’s Sculpture Garden
Cost: Admission $5 for Children Under 16. Children under 10 are free.
Contact: www.brunosart.com

Explore Gallipoli Park Precinct
with KIN Playspace, Darmody’s Pond and BBQ/Picnic areas. Free.
**School Holiday Activities in the Dandenong Ranges**

**Places to learn and play**

**SkyHigh, Mount Dandenong**
See stunning views of Melbourne’s skyline, play in the SkyHigh Maze or ride the model train.
26 Observatory Road, Mount Dandenong www.skyhighmtdandenong.com.au Ph: 9751 0443
**Cost:** Gate Entry Fee: $5.00 per car. Maze Entry Adults: $6.00 Children: $4.00

**Puffing Billy Railway**
Puffing Billy travels through the magnificent Dandenong Ranges from Belgrave daily except Christmas Day.
Departs from 1 Old Monbulk Road, Belgrave - at Belgrave Railway Station.
**Cost:** Family Fares* are available for only $94.00 from Belgrave to Lakeside return! (*Up to 2 adults, up to 4 children)
**Contact:** www.puffingbilly.com.au

**Feed the parrots at Grants Picnic Ground**
Feed the native birds, Rosellas and Lorikeets, and enjoy the many bushwalks.
**Contact:** 70 Monbulk Road, Kallista, www.grantsonsherbrooke.com.au

**Visit Cloudehill Gardens**
A must see garden made at the top of The Dandenongs & cafe.
**Contact:** 89 Olinda - Monbulk Road, Olinda www.cloudehill.com.au

**Visit William Ricketts Sanctuary, Kalorama**
Walk the forest pathways and marvel at more than 90 sculptures placed among the ferns.
**Contact:** 1402 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Mount Dandenong www.experiencethedandenongs.com.au/william-ricketts-sanctuary

**Running Rabbits Military Museum**
See the heritage, memorabilia and relics of Australian Service Personnel. Open 10am to 2pm Thursdays and Sundays.
**Contact:** Upwey Belgrave RSL, Ph. 9754 3665 www.upweybelgraversl.org.au

**Yarra Ranges Tourism**
www.experienceyarravalley.com.au
www.experiencethedandenongs.com.au
Ridge Top Brigades Important Dates To Remember

- **Brigade Open Day** – Sunday 1st December from 11am to 2pm at the Kalorama-Mt Dandenong Fire Station.
- **Fire Ready Victoria Meeting** – Sunday 1st December at 11am at the Kalorama -Mt Dandenong Fire Station.
- **Community Fireguard Member Networking Meeting** – Sunday 1st December at 2pm at the Kalorama - Mt Dandenong Fire Station. FREE BBQ lunch.
- **Community Fireguard Member Get Together** – Sunday 1st December at 10am at the Olinda Fire Station. All community members who are part of a Community Fireguard Group or want to know more about joining are welcome to attend this day.
- **Community Bushfire Planning Workshop** – Tuesday 3rd December at 7pm to 10pm at the Olinda Fire Station. Come and learn how easy it is to write your plans. Book today on 0407 455 914.
- **Annual Santa Runs For Kids**
  - **Kalorama-MT Dandenong Brigade Area** – Saturday 14th December from 5pm to 7pm.
  - **Olinda Brigade Area** – Sunday 22nd December from 11am to 1pm.
  - **Sassafras-Ferry Creek Brigade Area** – Tuesday 24th December from 4pm to 7pm.
Get the kids ready to receive some lollies from Santa. Listen out for us and come out say hello.
- **Community Meeting** – Wednesday 15th January 2014 at 7.30pm at the Sassafras-Ferry Creek Fire Station.
- **Community Meeting** – Saturday 18th January 2014 at 2pm at the Sassafras-Ferry Creek Fire Station.
- **Community Meeting** – Sunday 19th January 2014 at 10am at the Olinda Fire Station.
- **Ridge Top Brigades Family Fun & Information Day** – Sunday 2nd February from 10am at the Olinda Hall. This annual event is jointly hosted by the ridge top brigades of Kalorama -Mt Dandenong, Olinda and Sassafras-Ferry Creek.

Ridge Top Brigades Family Fun & Information Day is a great day out for the whole family with food and drinks for sale and a wonderful community atmosphere. Keep an eye out for our flyer in your letter box, banners, electronic signage and promotion in our local papers.

Ridge Top Junior Brigades

There are three Junior member brigades for 11 - 15 year olds along the Ridge Top. Being a CFA Junior Member is about fun, friendship, belonging, volunteering, responsibility, challenges, teamwork, leadership, skill development, community spirit, commitment and learning fire fighting skills. Juniors can also participate in regular brigade activities such as presentation nights, brigade meetings, community events and also have the opportunity to compete in junior fire fighting championships. It is a FREE activity and is available at Olinda, Kalorama-Mt Dandenong and Sassafras-Ferry Creek fire brigades. For more information please contact the Brigade Duty Officers at:

- Kalorama-Mt Dandenong 0408 272 606
- Olinda 0407 455 914
- Sassafras-Ferry Creek 0412 172 703
The Patch Primary School
Holiday Program
6th to 24th January 2014

BOOK NOW online at www.oshcare4kids.com.au and select your choice of Holiday Program.
Let your children join the fun and excitement!
Book as many days as you want and attend anytime between 7.00am – 6.00pm

Costs are eligible for the Government rebate (CCB/CCR).
A day can cost you as little as $18 per child!

Some of the FUN activities are:-
* Sticky, Gooey, Icky Mess Day  * Bubble Mania Incursion
* Hollywood Glamour Day  * Bounce Trampoline Excursion
* Splashtastic Incursion  * Cold Rock Experience
* Superhero & Imagination Spectacular

Visit our website to view the full program!

Exclusive Carnival Day
Be part of this ‘Mega Exclusive OSHCare 4 KIDS Carnival Day’.
All the Rides, Lunch, Slushie Drinks, Mega Remote Control Cars, Face Painting, Showbag and a whole lot more
Be part of this ultimate non-stop 4hr event!

Call OSHCare 4 KIDS on (03) 9758 6744
Email: admin@oshcare4kids.com.au
Website: www.oshcare4kids.com.au
Sassafras Ferny Creek Netball Club

Registration Day 2014

Mark the Date!

8 February, 2014, 10am – 12pm, Olinda Netball Courts

A great way to meet new friends and play a team sport

Teams for: Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s, Under 17s and an Open Team

Early bird registrations are welcome

Talk to Deb Andrich: 0407 514 103 or Ann-Maree Baker: 0418 395 070. Or email us at sassafrasfernycreeknetballclub@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook or www.sportingpulse.com.au