



311 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Sassafras, 3787

## PRINCIPAL'S WORD

Dear all,

Welcome back for Term 2. Over the last couple of weeks, we have been busy fine-tuning the school's Annual Implementation Plan and feel it's important to share it with the school community. We have set ourselves four clear goals for the year:

- To improve individual student learning outcomes with an emphasis in 2014 on writing in English and in numeracy (both across the school at all levels), as well as on improving VCE results;
- To improve attendance and punctuality through paying close attention to the wellbeing of all our students. The government's Every Day Counts campaign highlights the importance of the relationship between attendance at school and student outcomes, and we know that wellbeing of our students is key to attendance;
- To improve student connectedness through the development of student participation and responsibilities within the school - for this we are in particular looking at adopting a whole-school model of wellbeing for both students and staff;
- And finally, to make sure all the school's resources are supporting the drive towards the previous three goals.

### Important Dates

Thu May 8<sup>th</sup> - Open Day

Sat May 10<sup>th</sup> - Working Bee  
10am-3pm

Tue May 13<sup>th</sup> to Thu May 15<sup>th</sup> - Naplan

Thu May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Whole School Photo

Thu Jun 12<sup>th</sup> - Performance Night

Tue Jun 27 to Thu Jun 29 - Year 7-12 exams

This year is looking particularly important because we are one of the schools selected for a Priority Review in Term 1 2015. The Priority Review will be an opportunity for our school to set the direction for the future and to give school leadership support in improving your child's education, in particular building the capacity of teachers to focus on ways of teaching as well as developing the school's curriculum. It will also provide a platform to take a fresh look at student welfare issues. We will let you know more information on the review process closer to the time.

In the meantime, school continues as usual. As you'll see from the calendar, we have a busy term ahead, starting with our Open Day next Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Please do feel free to come along and visit on that day - it is for both prospective and existing families, so we would love to see you, and please tell any friends interested in what we do here at Sherbrooke about the day.

Sue Holmes, Acting Principal

### **Primary Camp-Out**



The Primary unit held a camp-out in the back paddock of school just prior to the holidays. Despite the cold, wet weather (gumboots will be on the list next time!), it was an exciting experience for all. The evening involved chestnut gathering and games throughout the school, both in the light and in the dark. Thanks to all students, parents and staff who participated or helped with equipment.

### **Working Bee**

Our next Working Bee is scheduled for Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am-3pm. This replaces the previously-agreed date of May 3 due to the Kallista Market on that day (more on that below). There will be a list of jobs on the day but our priorities are: clearing the paddocks; harvesting kiwi fruit and chestnuts; cleaning the windows; garage clean-up. We would love it if as many families as possible could come along on the day, even for a short while. Bring tools and gloves if you have them. In particular, any families with access to chainsaws would be most welcome.

### **Sustainability Committee**

Our new Sustainability Committee is up and running, thanks to a group of students, parents and staff. Top of the agenda is to look at the recommendations of a recent Energy Audit of the school, to see what we can do to reduce our energy footprint. Students will be hearing more about this over the coming months. We will also be consulting on a new masterplan for the grounds, and would love to hear from any families (particularly those with horticulture or permaculture backgrounds) who may be interested in being involved in the process of developing this. DD is away for the next three weeks, so let the office know instead.

### **Kallista Market**

Our presence as a Community Organisation at the monthly Kallista Community Market is starting to get the school noticed for positive reasons in the wider community. We are hoping to raise the school's profile and spread the word about the Sherbrooke difference, as well as raise some funds through selling baked/home-made goods or organising activities for children visiting the market. If you would like to join the team involved in organising and manning our stall, or if you think you may be able to help by baking or donating, please contact Kirsten Wiese (Krysta in Year 3's Mum) on 0431 931 725. Or just pop by and say hi! The market is held on the first Saturday of every month – upcoming dates are Sat May 3, Sat June 7, Sat July 5.

### Fundraising News

We are hoping to hold a raffle to raise some funds for the school during June's Performance Night. If you think your family or business might have something you would like to donate as a prize, please let us know. You can either tell the office or Amara, who is organising the fundraising team this year, or any of the students who are involved with the committee. In return, you'll get a mention in the next newsletter! Thanks very much.

We are also selling Entertainment Books again this year. These cost only \$65 and are packed full of discount vouchers for restaurants, entertainment and attractions, both local and Melbourne-wide. We only have access to a limited number - they can be hard to come by! - so please let Amara or Dot know as soon as possible if your family would like to purchase one.



### Chooks

We are yet to find homes for our now fully-grown roosters, and would ask everyone to ask around friends and family to see if we can find places for these two fine gentlemen.