



311 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Sassafras, 3787

## PRINCIPAL'S WORD

A very big welcome to the 2012 school year to all our families. If you are a new parent to the school we hope you are enjoying meeting all of the staff and parents of the school. We have some wonderful new preppies who have added their energy and bright faces to the school landscape and we are delighted to have them. We have many new students to the school and hope that they are finding their way and enjoying all of the activities that Sherbrooke has to offer.

Unfortunately the rain forced the postponement of our swimming carnival. We were all looking forward to this event and some wonderful costumes made and preparation done for the event. The new date is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March so fingers crossed that we get a good day. There will be many novelty events for the non swimmers and it will be a great opportunity to participate with Boronia Heights K-12 College on the day.

Our new stand alone year nine program has started the year with visitors into the school every week to talk about the various pathways open to students. Our focus on pathways and occupations has given the students a great deal of information and widened their horizons as far as choices they may be able to make in the senior years of their schooling.

We are fortunate to welcome several new staff this year.

Joel Cordwell who was with us as a relief teacher last year has joined us to run the PE/Sports program and to also teach Psychology. Joel has recently returned from the UK and brings a wealth of experience to the school. Joel has also accepted the position as Year 9 coordinator and will continue to develop this new program to the school.

Jacqui Wiltshire is our new science teacher and we are very lucky to have been able to employ a science teacher with such an impressive background. Jacqui has recently arrived from the UK and has revitalised the lab and the classes. Students are so excited about the new science programs and Jacqui is enjoying their enthusiasm.

Paul Grimmett comes to us from Croydon Community School. Paul has worked at Reconnecting Youth for some years and is very experienced in the fields of mathematics and wilderness education. Paul will be able to provide wonderful outdoor experiences for our students and is already very popular with the students.

Lara Wilson is a graduate who is just finishing her first year of teaching. Lara has wonderful skills in the teaching of literacy and numeracy particularly in the lower grades and is working wonderfully well in the primary team as well as helping out in the 6-8 team. We are very lucky to have gained the services of such a fine young teacher.

### Important Dates

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Swimming Carnival

Working Bee: 15 March  
3pm - 7pm

Morning Tea for all  
parents: 27 March  
from 9.30am

End of term: 30 March  
school ends 3.10pm

Term two starts: 1  
April

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All of the new staff have fitted into our team very well and we are very happy to have them. The school is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and high calibre staff this year.

The trip to China is still in planning stage with just a few vacancies remaining to fill. If your child or any family member is interested in attending please let me or Al Fricker know as soon as possible. The trip will be amazing with highlights such as a visit to Disneyworld, the Great Wall, the terracotta warriors in Xian and many opportunities to shop and eat great Chinese food. The chance to visit our sister schools and see firsthand what schools are like in China is also a great opportunity for our students. The Department of Education is very keen to ensure students in Victorian schools have a knowledge and understanding of Asia and its culture and peoples. The Department has a partnership with an Asian Education Foundation and I will be participating in a study tour to China and taking two staff with me. This is funded by the department and is designed to give principals and teachers an insight into Asian culture and education and to incorporate those studies into our curriculum. This is another aspect being introduced by the new Australian curriculum.

We are still looking for volunteers who may be able to help us out in the canteen for a day or so a week. Our wonderful canteen manager Yasmin gets everything ready for recess and makes sure we are all set up for lunch service. We need people who may be able to give us some time to serve at lunch. Lunch is from 1pm until 1.35pm so one hour maximum to open and then put everything away would be the time required. Currently Dot, Gail and other staff are serving but with all the wet weather duty we have had to have we are becoming stretched very thin.

Don't forget our twilight working bee on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> after the swimming carnival. Even if you can only assist for an hour it would be greatly appreciated. There will be food for the hungry workers.

The first term of the year is always very busy and this one has been no exception. It is also a very short term of 8 weeks and 1 day for students. **This term ends on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March at the normal time of 3.10pm and Term two starts on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April for all students.**

Our recent mail out calling for volunteers for school council resulted in all vacancies being filled without the need for an election. There were three vacancies and these were filled by the three nominations from Ben Harris, Tamara Desiatov and Gerard Regan. We will be welcoming these new councillors at the first meeting for the year on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

The Sherbrooke School Council and I would like to thank the outgoing councillors for their service to the school and the council. Outgoing from the council are Kathy Golub, David Woodberry and Gerry Corbett. These wonderful people have given us years of service on the council and have contributed greatly to the running and development of Sherbrooke Community School. We are indebted to them for their input over the years. The school council meets eight times a year and gives parents and community members the opportunity to participate in the running and governance of the school.

I am currently researching a system of SMS absence messaging for the school. The system works by sending a text to your nominated mobile phone alerting you to the fact that your child has been marked absent in Cases. If anyone has any contacts in the industry who could give me information it would be great if you could let me know so I can get quotes and investigate the system. Many schools are now using this and find it very useful.

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I would like to remind parents that although we have a policy of no uniform at Sherbrooke we are still required by DEECD to have a dress code. Please ensure your student is dressed appropriately for attending a government school with male and female students and in particular very young students. Parents have expressed their concern to me over the scanty nature of some of the girls clothing and the fact it is on view to all students including the preps and other primary students. Students are not permitted under any circumstances to attend school in bare feet.

Please don't forget to visit the website regularly for information about school events. All newsletters are held on there and the calendar is updated regularly. If we do not have your updated email address you need to register on the website to have the newsletter forwarded to you automatically.

We do not send out hard copy newsletters. It is all on the website.

Our new interactive whiteboards have arrived and we are looking forward to having them operational in the primary area as well as 6-8 and year 9 areas.

The first year of VCAL is going very well with many exciting projects being planned by the group. I am looking forward to a refurbishment of the noticeboard in the car park and the building of some possum boxes to give them new homes in the trees. We have recently evicted several possums from our roof so they need new beds. If there are any parents who are able to offer their skills to the VCAL group we would love to hear from you. Please contact Luc to give him your details. All volunteers must have a Working with Children check.

I look forward to seeing parents working around the school or just visiting. Please come and introduce yourselves if I have not met you yet. I will be at the working bee in my colourful gumboots and hope to see many parents there.

Anne

## **The Grounds are Buzzing!**

This year many grounds' projects have been earmarked by various classes. The Agriculture/Horticulture class is now known as the CaLM Crew (as they are doing Certificate II Conservation and Land Management through Holmesglen TAFE and delivered by DD). They helped get the kitchen garden at the back of the school into working order with the help of DD and Yasmin (a parent and Canteen Manager) over the school holidays. They have helped a group of year 9 students to plant out a huge number of seedlings donated by Erin (another parent). The year 9 group will be taking over the site as the CaLM Crew move down into the large veggie patch which will be called The Farm.

Other year 9 groups are landscaping the small ferny near the back of the staff room, redesigning the swamp area and building a meditation garden in The Farm.

Each Mentor group has been combined with another and the school has been divided into 5 areas of responsibility. The 5 groups can be as creative as they like in that area (obviously their plans need to go to the grounds committee for co-ordination purposes) or they just need to keep it tidy. One group is helping the swamp year 9 project and another is looking at building a frog bog near the hall as well as fixing up the path there.

Parents or community members are welcome to help any of these projects. Please let DD know – we have to work out a system for the use of tools so that they are available to all and are cared for by all. I am at school every day for all or part of the day this year so give Dot a ring and she will pass on the message and I will return your call. To those people who helped last year thank you. We should have the system worked out totally by the end of the year, so please bear with me. DD

PS. COME LOOK AT THE SUNFLOWERS – THEY ARE OUT!

## **Sherbrooke Sustainable School**

Last week a group of students and staff met to decide whether we would be part of the Shire of Yarra Ranges Learning for Sustainability programme. It was unanimous. Shortly all students, staff and the school council will be asked to sign a pledge to work towards being a Sustainable school. This pledge will be mounted in the Hall and it is the first requirement of the programme. Contact DD for more information.

You may have noticed we have finally got rid of the skips that were costing lots and were very convenient for our neighbours! The EST students (Environment Services Team) will be presenting information about recycling to the staff and students at Morning Meetings in the next few weeks. We need to reduce our waste and make sure the right things go in the right bins.

**HELP!** It would be really good if parents could support us in this endeavour and discuss how we can live more lightly on the earth (regardless of whether climate change is real or if we have anything to do with it).

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be clean it's green and it's cool at school . be clean it's green and it's cool at school



## Are your child's motor skills up to scratch?

We are conducting a research study examining why some children have difficulty developing motor skills at an age-appropriate level.

We are looking for **children aged 8-12**, who may not be developing motor skills as quickly as other children their age, to participate in our research study.

## What does participation involve?

Parents/ guardians will be asked to complete some questionnaires about their child's motor development and developmental history.

Children will complete a motor skill assessment and some tasks where they are required to imagine movements.

Eligible children will undergo a MRI (magnetic resonance image) scan whilst imagining movements, to allow us to look at brain activity during these tasks.

After the assessment, we will provide you with a written report outlining your child's performance on the motor skill assessment compared to other children their age.

If you would like more information about the study or would like to participate, please contact **Dr Jacqueline Williams** on 9919 4025 or email [jacqueline.williams@vu.edu.au](mailto:jacqueline.williams@vu.edu.au).



On the weekend of Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> May - Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012 \$55 Full Fee\*

This May 2012 camp is a camp for kids who've never been to a Kids of Gold camp before (Level One). Ring for a pre-booking, which will give you 21 days to formally register.

See [www.kidsofgold.co.cc](http://www.kidsofgold.co.cc) for further info.

## WHAT IS IT?

A camp designed especially to build confidence and self-esteem for Primary Kids in Grades 4-6. Students going into Year 7 in 2012 are still eligible.

There are 3 Levels that kids can ultimately do if they continue to come! Overcoming issues like shyness, bullying and inability to make friends are some of the areas that parents have seen their kids 'winning through' on through this camp. Fun games, low ropes and initiative activities, wall climbing, dramas etc are all in the program.

**COST?**

\$55 per child ( \*\$45 for Health Card Holders). There are **full sponsorships available to some** on application (\$55 is only 40% of the full price), and will be met through subsidies received through fundraising efforts and Kids of Gold sponsors. **Bendigo Bank, Bunnings and the Shire of Yarra Ranges** support our cause as much as they are able.

**CONTACT -**

Enquiries/pre-booking to 'Kids of Gold' on 0418 170 027 ( Jenny) or 9737. 9475 or 0415 427 396 (Gary).

**KIDS OF GOLD, 323 MONBULK RD SILVAN VIC 3795**

**ABN 57 327 231 83**



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***Our mission:***

*To develop a school community of empathetic and critical thinking citizens with a sense of purpose and an ability to make an effective contribution to the world.*