PRINCIPAL’S WORD

Dear Parents,

The last term of the year has certainly been a very busy one, even with just a few weeks gone. All building works have been completed with the school grounds now supporting a covered area that can be used in all weather. There is also a shed to house the school bus which is starting to look its age, as well as to provide storage for excess items. An area set aside near the shed will allow for extra parking spots which hopefully will alleviate some of the congestion in the carpark.

Anne Broadribb, the Principal and Al Fricker, accompanying staff member, along with nine Sherbrooke students, left Melbourne on Sunday afternoon, for China. They made it safely to Hong Kong, their first stop over after a long 9 hour flight. The weather was very humid and sticky and certainly called for a change into cooler clothing. The following day all were heading to Disneyland with their local guide for some fun and games. Next stop is a visit to Kaiping, our sister school.

Last week saw another one of Sherbrooke’s fantastic Performance Nights, showcasing the breadth and depth of talent we have here at the school. Many congratulations to all those who took part and thanks very much to all the family and friends who came along to support the performers.

On Friday 2 November all staff will be involved in report writing so there is the final student-free day for the year. Due to a ban implemented by the AEU, only the VELS points will be reported on the end-of-semester reports. The Australian Education Union is taking industrial action in support of new enterprise agreements for teachers, principals and support staff, and all teachers who are members of the union have no choice other than to participate in this collective action.

The VCE students commence their very important exams this week with the finishing date for all examinations, the 23 November. We wish them every success in their endeavours.

Sue Holmes
Assistant Principal

Important Dates

Fri 2nd Nov – Student-free Day
Fri 9th Nov – Twilight Working Bee, 3pm-7pm
Fri Nov 30th – School Social, 4pm-8pm
Sat Dec 8th – Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser, Woolworths FTG, 10am-4pm
Thu Dec 20th – Term 4 finishes 2.30pm

Twilight Working Bee – Friday November 9th, 3.30pm-6pm – plus SAUSAGE SIZZLE!

The final Working Bee for the year will be held after school next Friday and it would be great to have as many hands as possible. Come along and help build a new roof to keep our sheep dry! Refreshments will be on offer. We look forward to seeing you. Thanks! – The Grounds Committee
Woolworths Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser: Volunteers Needed!

We have another sausage sizzle fundraiser booked for Woolworths in Ferntree Gully, on Saturday Dec 8, from 10am-4pm. We are asking all who can to come and help out for an hour.

A roster will go up outside the office for those who can volunteer an hour of their time to help, or just let Dot or Yasmin in the canteen know when you’re available.

Thanks!

China: The Trip So Far – Al Fricker’s Diary

Day 1 - Melbourne – Hong Kong

We met at Melbourne Airport and said our heartfelt good byes before heading to the check-in counter. Of course, there is always one who has packed too much in their case. This time it was me and I had to open the suitcase and lighten the load - super embarrassing! After that we headed over to the departure lounge and passport and customs control. Guess who got a random frisk search? Yep you got it, I did.

We flew directly over the centre of Australia and Indonesia. When we were over Darwin we were able to observe a huge storm which had grounded planes there. It was quite amazing. We hit very little turbulence on the way and landed safely at Hong Kong. The humidity hit us as soon as we got off the plane. At the very plush hotel, we all retired after a massive day to get some sleep and hopefully be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed for our trip to Disneyland tomorrow.

Day 2 – Hong Kong

We had all had a fairly good night's rest and were chomping at the bit to head to Disneyland. We had breakfast at the hotel and much to the kids’ enjoyment the food was western and delicious!

After consuming the annual food production of a small African nation we headed downstairs to the bus. The clouds were dark and threatening but the rain held off. Hong Kong is a very different city in the daylight and it is beautiful. It is dominated by a massive suspension bridge which runs from the island to the New Territories. What freaked me out a little was the 20 storey building next to the hotel which was covered in scaffolding made from bamboo... BAMBOO!!!! Work cover would have a fit!!!! Anyway, we bundled onto the bus and began the half an hour drive to Disneyland.

Once there the kids could barely contain their excitement. We organised our meeting place and time and split into groups. The day at Disneyland was full of fun, excitement and a little drama. Anne and I found ourselves being pushed and pulled all over the theme park by eager students wanting us to try a ride they had just come off. We soon found ourselves on roller coasters, and, well, more roller coasters. My particular favourite was the Space Explorer. It was fun and quite scary too. Anne and I then found ourselves again without students who had gone on their merry way to have further adventures. This gave us a chance to
enjoy some more of the scenic rides which included Tarzan's treehouse, the river cruise and the parade. At this point we bumped into Monique who had lost her buddies in the parade and as a group we enjoyed a 3D spectacular movie.

After this the groups slowly started to converge on the meeting point where we began to share stories of the day. We discovered that Chris had thwarted an attempt at stealing his wallet by elbowing the would-be thief in the chest. Unfortunately Zach was not as lucky and he had his jumper stolen from his backpack. To add insult to injury, he discovered as he was on a ride (one of the many rollercoasters) that the previous occupant of his seat had suffered an out-of-stomach experience right where he had sat and put his hands in it! (Poor kid).

After we had finished sharing our stories we sat down to a delicious banquet dinner. We ate and ate and ate but there was just too much food! After dinner we caught our bus and went directly to the Ladies night market which our guide Cici had suggested we visit. What an experience! In many ways it was very similar to the Queen Vic but without the food and totally in the open. The haggling was fierce and some of the students got really good deals. We waited until the correct time and two did not show up (Callum and Jaden) thankfully after a worrying 15 mins they arrived puffed and sorry. They got lost! But to their credit they managed to find their way out of that pickle.

We had a 20min walk to the hotel where the boys decided they wanted to make use of the roof top swimming pool. I have no doubt that the students will have a million stories to tell about their day in Hong Kong which have not been told yet but I'm sure will be when we get home. Tomorrow we have an early start in the morning (5:30am!!!) to catch the ferry to the bus and then that to Kaiping to meet with our sister schools. Very exciting!

Day 3 – Mainland China

Wow, what a day. At 7am we went on the bus to take us to the ferry for 8:30am. Once there we went through customs and boarded. After an almost three hour ride with Monique looking decidedly green around the edges with motion sickness we arrived in Mainland China. Here we met our Chinese guide who will be with us for the remainder of the trip. His name is Oliver and what he doesn't know about China, is not worth knowing. He is full of interesting facts and is super-helpful. At times I have found myself asking question after question.

There was a stark contrast between the clean modern buildings of Hong Kong and the rustic charm of the rural Chinese countryside. We spent another hour in the bus to get to Kaiping. With a short rest stop for lunch the students were able to experience KFC China Style! Lots of spice.

After the short rest stop it was time to meet our schools. The first school was amazing. We were ushered into the main conference room and a class of year 10s were introduced to us. After some initial shyness soon all the students were chattering away like old friends. Details were exchanged and we're hoping this will translate into long-lasting pen pals. We went on a tour of the school and it was left in no doubt that we were an event!
After the tour we had to say our good byes and jump on our bus for the short drive to the next school. Again we arrived to find ourselves ushered into a formal room in front of the year 11 class (they have sixty students in them!!!!!!!! 60!!!!!!!!) We introduced ourselves, had the formal speeches and the exchanging of gifts. Afterwards we had photos with the staff and students there. We then had an opportunity to talk to the students and have guided tours of the school. We all found ourselves to be the centre of attention and many of us were asked to come into various classrooms and introduce ourselves to the classes. Kieron was an absolute standout. He certainly made Sherbrooke proud teaching a year 11 class to say G'day mate!

We each have a million stories to tell about our experiences at these two schools in Kaiping and I'm sure the travellers will be more than happy to share them when we get back. One of the highlights was for Chris. He not only found himself as the centre of attention but he also scored a hug, kiss and a statement of undying love from a student at the school.

After the school we headed to the hotel for a quick rest and change of clothes for dinner we went to a restaurant called the Fun Garden Hotel. There we were treated to yet another banquet. This one was slightly different from last night's one, but it was equally delicious. The highlight was seeing the faces of the students as they realised that the chicken we were picking at still had its severed cooked head on the plate. I may or may not have laughed at their reaction!

After dinner it was time to head back to the hotel for some well needed R&R. Overall today was amazing for all involved. I know that my teaching has been changed for the better and it has been a sobering dose of reality for some of the students. It has been inspiring and profound and something which will last all of us our lifetimes. Tomorrow we will spend travelling. We have check out at the reasonable time of 8:30am and will have a bus, plane and then another bus before we reach our hotel in Beijing.

Message from School Council -  
SCHOOL SOCIAL, Fri Nov 30th at 4pm, ALL INVITED!

All students, families, teachers, and other members of the school community including prospective students and their families are invited to the School Social, to be held on Friday November 30th, from 4pm-8pm (this has changed from the previous date of Sat Dec 1st).

We know it is a busy time for all, but would love to see everyone up at school for this celebration of the year that has passed, and to look forward to the coming year. We will have a PA system set up, and are hoping to organise some music.

We are asking everyone to being a dish to share (labelled with ingredients), and will have BBQs available, vegetarian and non-vegetarian, for you to cook anything you wish to bring.

We are also hoping to organise a raffle to raise a little bit of money for the school. If anyone has any prizes they wish to donate, please call Rose on 9752 0807 or email smithmajor@bigpond.com.

Looking forward to seeing you all!

P.S. We would ask that you please don't leave your children at school unsupervised between end of school and start of the social.
End of the Line (http://www.endofthelinefestival.com) is a one-day, grassroots, community arts festival put together by volunteers of the Belgrave Community Arts Partnership.

The festival features more than 40 musicians over 5 stages, all donating their talents for the greater cause of sharing and celebrating the arts. Over 200 artists are collaborating in 20 exhibitions that are taking over the most unusual spaces throughout the town, including local shops, alleyways and even the laundromat! Street performances, sculpture installations, a makers market, workshops, demonstrations and theatre performances all combine to help foster connections within the community.

Sherbrooke Community School is participating with a stall selling artwork and jewellery which students have made throughout the year, with many students helping run the stall. Come and visit us and maybe even do some early Christmas shopping!
LEARN TO SWIM - Belgrave Heated Outdoor Pool

6 week Program -
Commencing week beginning 12th November 2012,
Monday and Wednesday after school & Saturday mornings
$60.00 per child for the Program

Intensive Holiday Program
7th – 11th Jan, 14th – 18th Jan, 21st – 25th Jan
$50.00 for the 1st Child & $48.00 for all additional.

6 week Program - $60.00 per child for the Program
Commencing week beginning 28th January 2013
Monday and Wednesday after school & Saturday mornings
For all enquiries Phone 9754 2743

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Holiday and Festival Asthma Trigger Warning

The upcoming holiday season and festivities planned during Term 4 and throughout the summer holidays may mean that your child is exposed to new triggers for their asthma. It is important for parents and carers, and children themselves, to be aware of changes to their environment and the activities that may impact on their asthma.

Christmas trees, both real and artificial could be triggers for people with asthma. Artificial trees may be quite dusty after being stored away, while both real and artificial trees may harbour mould. It is important to ensure that artificial trees are cleaned appropriately and that care is taken to select real trees that do not produce wind-borne pollen. All tree and other decorations should cleaned and free from dust and mould when used at home.

Scented candles, room deodorisers and air fresheners may also trigger asthma in those susceptible to perfumes, and care should be taken when purchasing these and other scented items at home.

Lastly, the added pressures of the year drawing to a close can cause stress and anxiety for many people, potentially triggering asthma attacks. It is important to consider ways that the whole family can enjoy the holidays and feel safe happy and comfortable.

Happy Holidays from The Asthma Foundation of Victoria.

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For further information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au
Weed Blitz

Free Environmental
Weed Tipping Day
Skips will be available at
Monbulk Reserve, Moors Road, Monbulk
on Saturday 1st Dec 2012 9am – 3pm

- Agapanthus
- Arum Lily
- Asparagus Fern
- Banana Passionfruit
- Cotoneaster
- English Holly
- English Ivy
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Karama
- Mirror bush
- Montbretia
- Red Ceztrum
- Sweet Pittosporum
- Wandering Trad
- Wild Tobacco Tree

When removing weeds please be aware of the potential that native animals may be sheltering in them. Always check woody weeds for nests before removing and where possible replace a weed with an indigenous native plant. Nest boxes are easy to make, inexpensive to buy and a great way of providing homes for native animals.

Win a Nest Box
3 to give away

We cannot accept Noxious Weeds due to legal limitations on transportation
www.dpi.vic.gov.au

WEED INFORMATION AND ADVICE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

For information on weed removal techniques call 9294 6822 or
http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Event jointly sponsored by the Urban Fringe Weed Management Initiative and Yarra Ranges Council’s Weed Wipeout program