A word from our Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all our students and families for Term 2.

Term 2 is historically a busy time for all and this year is no exception. Families will be receiving plenty of feedback about their child’s learning and achievements. Interim Reports were sent home via the students last week. The pack contained a summary of the student’s achievements to this point in their learning for the year. Accompanying the report was an information sheet and a booking sheet for families to make a time to speak to their child’s teachers about their progress. The Parent/Teacher interviews are being held on Wednesday 22 April and Thursday 30 April between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to book in a time as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Students should accompany their parents to the interview. NB: A normal school day precedes the interviews. The new reporting and communication package is nearing completion. Watch out for the new look reports at the end of this semester.

A presentation is being made to the Staff and the School Council early this term, regarding the findings from the Priority Review conducted last term. These findings will drive the direction of Sherbrooke Community School for the next four years.

Once again this year, NAPLAN testing will be conducted on the 12, 13 and 14 May. Sherbrooke Community School believes that these tests are an important aspect of a child’s schooling.

NAPLAN tests skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. NAPLAN tests provide very valuable information, but there are no consequences for individual students for poor or good performance. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress. It is therefore important that all students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit the tests in May. If for some reason a family believes that their child/children should be exempt from sitting the test, an application needs to be made to the school.

An important date for the family calendar is our Student Free Day on Friday the 22 May. The main focus for the day will be working on improving the findings as outlined in the Priority Review. Staff will attend in-house Professional Development sessions to assist in improving performance, well being and engagement and outcomes for all students.

This term, students will have the opportunity to participate in many sporting activities, the Annual Music concert and the Year 9 to 12 Theatre performances.

In conclusion, I hope you enjoy reading about our new addition to the Sherbrooke family, Malakie, our six month old guide dog puppy, as much as I did. - Sue Holmes
This is my first year teaching at Sherbrooke Community School and I am thrilled to be working with the grade threes and fours and the rest of the primary teaching team.

I completed my Bachelor of Education at the end of last year after studying full time for four years, which was challenging but ultimately very rewarding in the end.

After working in retail for many years, I knew that I wanted to further my education and my career.

I have always enjoyed working with people so naturally I thought that teaching would be the best career for me. After I had done my first round of uni teaching placements, I knew I had made the right choice.

Away from the classroom, I enjoy travelling, watching movies and going to see musical theatre.

I have a real passion for media and technology and am always eagerly awaiting the latest and greatest gadget and gizmo to be released. I look forward to being able to incorporate my passion of technology in my classroom and the rest of the school.

A huge thank you to everyone at Sherbrooke for making me feel so welcomed to the school.

My background is working with clients of diverse ages, cultures, abilities and backgrounds in a range of helping professions from specialist counsellor to support and integration worker to guest lecturer.

I also had the privilege of working in America to design, coordinate and implement tribes programs for people with disabilities and special needs to develop resiliency and social skills. I have a Bachelor in Psychology and a Masters in Counselling.

I’m excited to let you know new things are happening in the welfare and integration area.

Firstly, we are excited to begin implementing the highly successful Kidsmatter initiative into our school community to proactively strengthen the wellbeing of our school and the students, staff, families and organisations within it. We also have our partnership with Big Brothers, Big Sisters in facilitating the Big Futures program. And lastly, you may also spot me working in classrooms with students to provide further integration support.

I look forward to meeting and working with everyone in the school community. Thanks for the warm welcome I have received from students, families and staff alike.
Adidas Fun Run on again!

Everyone will be excited to hear the **adidas School Fun-Run** will be held again this year! It is scheduled for Friday, May 15 at Ferny Creek Reserve.

As well as being a really fun event for the kids, it is also one of the school’s major fundraisers for the year.

The Fun Run is a healthy, fun and active fundraiser that ensures we send the right message to our students about getting active, having fun and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The main focus of this event is on participation. Family support is invaluable as we encourage all students to get involved.

Every student will receive a Sponsorship Form to help collect funds on behalf of the school. The money raised will be used to purchase school resources chosen by the staff, students and families of the school. The more we raise, the better the resources we can buy for our school.

We ask all parents to read the Sponsorship Form and sign the front page to grant permission for their child to fundraise and participate in the event. In the form you will find many other benefits such as the chance to win a family holiday in Disneyland!

Students who raise just $10 or more will receive a reward for effort. We have educated students on the dangers of door knocking without adult supervision, so please reiterate this at home. The best people to ask for sponsorship are people you know such as friends, family, work colleagues and neighbours.

A new way to help your child reach their sponsorship goal is through online fundraising. Students raise 5.62 times more with the online fundraising system, with an average of $95.58 per student! To benefit from this new feature, log on to schoolfunrun.com.au/students today!

Once fundraising is complete please help your child fill out **Step 5 – How to Claim Prizes**, on the back page of the Sponsorship Form. Tear it off and return it with all money raised to the front office on or before **Friday, May 22, 2015**.

Student prizes will arrive shortly thereafter.

Each year we work hard to create a day of fun for the students and their families with the **adidas School Fun-Run**. We welcome the attendance of parents and family members to help cheer on the students.

If you would like to volunteer and help out on the day please contact PE & Sport Coordinator, Joel Cordwell. We would love to see you at our event.

Good luck and happy fundraising!

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... and Athletics!

For the second year in a row, Sherbrooke will hold our athletics carnival here at school! All students, from Prep to year 10, will participate for their House.

Last year Red House won the House Shield, so it is up to the other houses to ensure they pull together to win the title.

Students will participate in events such as High Jump, Long Jump, Vortex, sprints, relays and Tug of War. It will be an exciting afternoon where students can participate or cheer on their house.

The Athletics Carnival will be held on **Thursday, May 7**, during periods 3, 4 & 5 on the school grounds and at Ferny Creek Reserve.

Parents are welcome to come along and cheer for their children.

See you there!
Welcome to the new wellbeing section of our newsletter!
This month’s topic is school attendance. With busy mornings, preparing for your family’s day ahead while trying to get a refusing child to school can be very stressful. With the colder seasons of the year approaching, we can all understand their desire to stay in a warm bed!
Yet alarmingly, poor secondary school attendance is related to future unemployment, criminal activity, substance abuse, poorer health and life expectancy. Primary school attendance is equally imperative as patterns in attendance are set earlier in life.
But don’t panic! It is never too late to address concerns with school attendance.
There can be various factors causing a child’s reluctance to attend school such as:
- Social anxiety
- Bullying or peer relationship concerns
- Lack of connectedness or belonging to the school
- Disliking school subjects
- Personal factors such as low self-esteem
- Family factors

These factors can require different approaches to best support school refusal. A starting point is to speak with your child’s classroom teacher, year level coordinator or student welfare coordinator. Please be assured that you are not alone in this struggle and there are many strategies available to best support each unique child.

**Immunisations this term**
Just a reminder that the Immunisation program will get underway this term.
Immunisation dates have been set as follows:
April 23 - Years 7, 8, 9, 10
June 22 - Year 7
October 30 - Year 7
Year 9 students attending the excursion on April 23 will have their immunisation date moved to June 22.

**Help for Breakfast Club/Canteen**
Our kids LOVE Breakfast Club and our Canteen lunches.
Breakfast Club runs every Tuesday and Thursday morning. We provide free toast and fresh fruit for all the kids. The canteen runs every day. Both are made possible by our keen volunteers.
We are looking for more parent helpers for Term Two. So, if you can spare a little time please leave your contact details with Dot at the office.

**Parents Group for Fun & Friends**
Sherbrooke has an active parents group - it’s a great way to get to know other parents and help out our school community. We support School Council, help with fundraising, promoting our school and lots of other little things.

All parents are welcome to come along or just assist where you can. And there are lots of small ways you can get involved. It doesn’t require regular attendance or a big commitment. Just come when you can and join in the fun.

Get-togethers are held on Tuesdays at pick up time - watch TIQBIZ for the next date!
Working Bee - A day of action and achievement

Our first working bee for the year was held in March and boy did we get lots of work done! And the school looks great because of it. We mulched, composted, cleared the basketball court, gardened, pruned, dismantled the old skate ramp, built stairs (Well done Steve!), laid mulch, swept, "blowered" and did a litter patrol.

We also had a delicious morning tea and lunch, we laughed lots, chatted, made friends and the kids played a lot of four square in between jobs ;) Imagine what we could do if a few more families took part! Even just for an hour.

Watch for the next working bee date on TIQBIZ! We hope to see you all there!

Lots of teamwork was required to break up the old skate ramp.

Earth Hour Fun

Everyone at Sherbrooke celebrated Earth Hour on Friday, March 27. It was an event called “Biomes For Earth Hour” and was registered with the Earth Hour organisation.

Three short films (Earth hour Egg-cellent launch) were shown to the whole school and Years 9 and 10 work on Biomes was also put on display.

In the afternoon a house competition brought the whole school together in just four rooms (thus reducing our energy use for the day) for a number of weird but environmentally cool challenges. These included a paper plane competition and a challenge to see which house could build the strongest chair from recycled newspapers.

It was a really fun day - One hundred and thirty students and teachers worked together and had fun whilst being aware of their use of resources.

Thank you to everyone that participated.

" We got lots done but we had heaps of fun too "

Above: Shoveling mulch, Below Left: on the blower and Below Right: mulching at the working bee in term one.
Introducing Malakie - Our newest Guide Dog Puppy

We have been asked to take over the puppy raising of Malakie. He is now 6 months of age. He is a very sweet young pup. He still has the boisterous outbursts of a pup but will also just hang out.

His mother, Daria is Dallas’ sister so he has the same colouring as Dallas. He is just starting to be introduced to quiet shops and watching the trains and buses. At this stage he seems very confident and is very calm when walking with his gentle leader.

Malakie will be with us until October. After he turns one he will go in for assessment.