Welcome to the Christmas edition of our monthly newsletter.

I would like to wish all Sherbrooke Community School parents, students and friends a safe and happy Christmas and summer holiday season.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of staff, parents and students to Sherbrooke Community School in 2015.

Walt Disney once said, ‘You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality.’

This is certainly the case as a Principal. The reality is that the learning experiences and projects that have taken place this year could not have happened without a great deal of commitment and support from staff, parents and students.

Christmas is a festival of joy and cheer and a good opportunity for special family and friends to get together and celebrate. It is also a great opportunity for us to reflect on the year and celebrate the many successful school events. Here are just a few:

- Nathaniel Golub winning the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program at Melbourne University. Nathaniel is the third student from Sherbrooke Community School to be accepted into this program.
- The Science Fair
- Sustainability program which opened with Environment Day to raise funds to facilitate the adoption of baby orang-utans Nita and Jumbo in Borneo
- ICAS exam competitions in English, Spelling, Maths and Science - (ICAS = International Competitions and Assessments for Schools)
- Indigenous Education – Welcome to Country Smoking ceremony conducted by Uncle Bill from the Wurundjeri People
- Near capacity enrolments for 2015
- The Guide Dogs Program
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters Mentoring Program
- Well Being Day
- The VCAL Winter Sleep out to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless
- Sherbrooke Community School’s 30th Anniversary Celebration
- Whole school Phillip Island beach camp (Years Prep – 11)
- Sherbrooke’s famous music and theatre performance nights
- Many sporting events, such as the very successful ADIDAS FUN RUN
- Great Vic Bike Ride

To our departing families and students - Make the most of every day. Whatever you strive for, whatever you do, whatever your lot in life; give it your best.

To our returning staff, students and families - We look forward to strengthening our relationship with you and embarking on the journey of the 2016 school year together.

Merry Christmas to all. Have a safe, happy and relaxing holiday.

Sue Holmes
2015 a busy year for our School Council

School Council had a very busy 2015. As the body responsible for fundraising for the school, we were closely involved with the hugely successful 30th Anniversary Celebrations, which ultimately raised around $1500 for the school. Congratulations to all those, on Council and beyond, who helped with the organisation of the day. There will be more fundraising events during 2016 and we hope to see many families there.

One of our other highlights of the year was being closely involved with the Priority Review back in Terms 1 and 2. An ultimately very positive process, it helped shape the formation of the school’s new Strategic Plan, which sets out our overall direction over the next four years. A copy of the plan is available for families to look at, just ask Dot.

Financially, the school remains on stable ground. Council has oversight of the school’s finances and would like to congratulate all staff members on a sterling effort over the last couple of years to bring the school in on budget while continuing to provide a stimulating curriculum for our students. Particular thanks to both DD and Tiffany who have also secured grants to fund programs and projects over the last year. Council would love to have a grants officer on board, so if any members of the school community have expertise in this area, we’d love to hear from you.

Finally, we enter 2016 in the middle of a process to appoint a Principal to the school.

The contract of Anne Broadribb, who was appointed to the position at the start of 2011, but has not been with the school since late 2013, has not been renewed. School Council has two representatives on the panel which recommends the appointment, and the successful applicant must then be endorsed by full Council. Rest assured that Council will be working hard to find the candidate who is the best fit to take the school onwards and upwards in 2016 and beyond.

Have a great holiday.

Rose Major - President, School Council

Work experience success

Many of our Year 9 and 10s have been on work experience recently. I have had the privilege of visiting each of them during this program.

Some of the areas they are working in include:

- Retail and stock control
- Childcare
- Hospitality
- Working with animals

The students have gained a great deal from being able to work. They will have wonderful stories to share with us on their return.

- Leanne

Malakie coming home!

I have been asked to look after our boy for the Christmas holidays!

I have been given special permission to pick Malakie up on Thursday, December 17 and bring him back for our final awards and achievement ceremony on the last day of term.

He will stay with me until January 10, 2016.

Malakie will then return to Guide Dogs Victoria to recommence his training.

- Leanne

2016:

School office reopens - Wednesday, January 27
First day of term one - Friday, January 29
Farewell and good luck to our Year 12s

Year 12 students celebrated the end of their school years with a muck up day and formal graduation dinner at the end of November. The muck up day was great fun with all the kids dressed up in amazing costumes. They decorated the school, filled it with tiny zoo animals and spoke beautifully about what Sherbrooke Community School meant to them. The most popular part of the day though was probably when they threw lollies to the younger kids! Their graduation dinner, held at Sky High was also a fun occasion although the outfits were much prettier. There was great food, speeches, cake and dancing. All the year 12s looked amazing and their families and teachers were all really proud of them.
2015 - What a great year it was...

Sherbrooke Community School has had an outstanding year in 2015. We started the year with near capacity enrolments and news of outstanding VCE results and finished the year with a fabulous celebration of our school at the 30 Years Festival and Reunion.

In between there have been sporting triumphs, personal achievements, stellar dramatic and musical performances, academic excellence, amazing efforts at fundraising and community care... and of course a whole lot of learning and fun.

With such a fabulous list of achievements behind us this year we all as a community should feel really proud of our school and all the people that make us what we are.

2016 promises to be just as good, with again near capacity enrolments, a dedicated staff and enthusiastic students and parents.

As one of our departing year 12s said "Sherbrooke is a school you can feel proud to be a part of. What you put into it you will get back, and lots more. So get involved!"

There are many ways parents, ex students and community members can become involved next year - keep an eye out for your chance! Remember we are a community school and if everyone participates in that community, our school will continue to thrive and improve.

HIGHLIGHT! Kids came to school with all kinds of crazy hair do's to raise money with Grade Six student, Emily Spirt. Emily shaved her head for World’s Greatest Shave, ultimately raising $3000 for Leukemia Foundation

HIGHLIGHT! Wild Onsie Day! Another fancy fundraiser this time raising enough money to adopt two orangutan babies in Borneo. See page 13 for an update on our orangutans. The kids learned all about palm oil, it’s production and problems from this practice.

HIGHLIGHT! Sherbrooke Community School students speak to the crowd about sustainability on World Environment Day at Melbourne Girls College.

HIGHLIGHT! Our second annual swimming carnival! A festival atmosphere with music, loads of colour and fun. The winners - Yellow House! Congratulations!

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HIGHLIGHT! Welcome to Country smoking ceremony with Uncle Bill from the Wurundjeri People.

HIGHLIGHT! VCAL Winter Sleepout organised by students to raise awareness about the plight of the homeless. We raised over $1200 for Mission Australia.

HIGHLIGHT! Phillip Island whole school camp - sun, sand and surfing! What could be better?

HIGHLIGHT! Whole school theatre performances! Especially Romeo and Juliet

HIGHLIGHT! Wellbeing Day with a host of fun activities for all the kids

HIGHLIGHT! Musical Bingo - a fun night out for parents and staff with an 80s theme. Watch out for another Musical Bingo Night in 2016 - Back by popular request!!!

HIGHLIGHT! ADIDAS Fun Run - a whole school event which raised $2900 which got us new soccer goals at school. Another fun event which will be back next year!

HIGHLIGHT! VCAL Winter Sleepout organised by students to raise awareness about the plight of the homeless. We raised over $1200 for Mission Australia.

And let’s not forget about...

- Primary camp out at school
- Excursions: Melbourne Museum, The Jewish Holocaust Museum, the Aquarium - just to name a few
- Representatives in regional swimming and athletics
- Recognitions up to high distinction in international academics competitions (ICAS)
- Participation in the Guide Dog puppy training program - Malakie passed his assessments!
- The Science Fair
- Kids Teaching Kids - in school and interschool events
- Charlotte Wiltshire completed her 1st year of biology at Melbourne University whilst doing VCE as well
- Nathan Hare won a place in the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars program at Melbourne University.
- Mytchall Brooks chosen to train and compete in USA College Basketball 2019
- Nat Klodinsky received an award for Cert III for music performance from the Mullum Cluster
- Jackson Griffiths scouted to join the VFL Umpire development squad

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- 30 Years - Celebrate - 30 Years - Celebrate - 30 Years - Celebrate -
On November 29, Sherbrooke Community School celebrated its 30 year milestone in style!
The festival and reunion was a huge hit with the school grounds filled with past and present students, staff, parents and community members.
There were theatre performances by primary students, music by past and present students, dancing, market stalls, food trucks, smoothie bikes, silent auctions, raffles, games, art mural installations, afternoon tea, tree plantings and photo displays.

Perhaps the most popular place to be on the day was the reunion tent. It was great to see so many ex students ('Sherbies forever') catching up and sharing stories from the old days.

A highlight of the festival for many was having original principal and school founder, Collin Hollow, and second principal, Bob Sheppard, return to Sassafras to celebrate with us.

Thanks to everyone who came along and made this event so much fun!
Commemorative trees planted by VIPs

As part of the official ceremony on festival day some special guests were invited to plant trees as a lasting memorial of the occasion.

Led by former student, Jorden Crook, and sustainability teacher, Denise Dempsey, primary students helped the VIPs plant the new garden at the front of the language lab. The chosen plants were:

**Ginkgo** (*Ginkgo biloba*) is one of the oldest living tree species. It is also used as a herbal supplement to improve memory. It is Chinese in origin (linking us with our sister schools) and will remind us of all the great memories held at Sherbrooke Community School.

Two trees planted by James Merlino, Victorian Minister for Education (middle row left) and Collin Hollow, first principal of Sherbrooke. (at right).

**Musk Daisy Bush** (*Olearia argophylla*) is characteristic of wet sclerophyll forest. It is very tough and can survive many calamities – just like Sherbrooke has done and will continue to do.

Planted by Robert Shepherd, first Vice Principal and later, second Principal of Sherbrooke. (Middle right)

**Soft Tree-fern** (*Dicksonia antarctica*), unlike many Australian plants they don’t respond well to fire. Therefore they are only found in older bush areas like rainforest, which rarely burn.

Two ferns planted by Sue Holmes – current acting Principal (bottom left) and Denise Dempsey, sustainability teacher. (bottom right)

**Blackwood** (*Acacia melanoxylon*) is a native wattle prolific in the hills. It survives fires and is long living.

Planted by Cr Mike Clarke (bottom centre) Shire of Yarra Ranges Lyster Ward and Samantha Dunn MLC for Eastern Metropolitan. These trees will go towards making up an avenue of wattles adjacent to the basketball court.

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Art room undergoes visual metamorphosis at festival

Each year the art room goes through a visual metamorphosis, changing its skin to adapt to a new climate. This year to celebrate the 30th anniversary of SCS, students were invited to contribute design ideas and concepts for the new mural paint up. These concept drawings were then taken through another process of design with Rod and young local street artist, Connor Blake, who refined the students’ ideas into working pieces for the mural. Still in its early stages, this will be an ongoing mural project that the school community will see develop over the coming summer months.

“...will develop over the coming summer months’

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Year six students celebrate a milestone

Sherbrooke Community School’s grade six students celebrated the end of their primary schooling recently.

Their graduation was held at school, where their grade five classmates cooked them an Italian feast consisting of two different kinds of lasagna, spaghetti bolognaisé, garlic bread and fruit smoothies for dessert.

The grade fives also waited tables during lunch. Congratulations to them as they did an amazing job.

The grade six students also received certificates of graduation for completing primary school.

Grade six teacher, Andrew Holden, said “It’s wonderful to see the Year 6 group complete their primary education this year.

I’ve been lucky enough to teach some of these students for most of the time that I have been here at Sherbrooke. This class has helped make teaching really enjoyable for me, and they should be really proud of their achievements and the people they have become during this phase of their lives.

I wish them all the very best for next year and beyond!”

“Sherbrooke Community School wishes them every success in their transition to high school.”

From top (L-R) : 5-6 teacher, Andrew Holden with his students Jack S, Freya, Elijah, Harry, Chrysta, Sam, Jack McG, Mirabie, Xanthe, Haley, Sofie, Emily and Alice.

(L-R) : Year five waiters, Lizzy, Noah and Trinity
Congratulations to our Great Vic cyclists

The Great Victorian Bike Ride for 2015 was from Ballarat to Bendigo via several loops. It is very dry out west and we had hot weather throughout the ride. There were some hills but the worst was the hot dry headwinds.

The team did a grand job of riding and we all had a ball. Thank you to all involved, especially Nick and, of course, Jacqui who drove the school bus back to Bendigo on the Sunday to pick up students who were unable to be collected.

The next GVBR in 2016 is from the Grampians down the coast, along the Great Ocean Road and to Geelong. It is a superb ride and many people will want to take part. Start saving now if you would like to join us! - DD

The Sherbrooke Great Vic team: (L-R): DD, Caitlin, Kaelun, Chris, Charlotte, Tom, Nick, and former students, Piers and Andy. Missing from the photo are Lacey and Daniel.

The success of our ‘Girl Talk’ program

Girl Talk helped our year 5/6 girls learn more about themselves and each other. It was facilitated by our enthusiastic Social Worker Thoula and Student Welfare and Integration Coordinator, Tiffany. It covered topics the student found important, such as self-esteem and confidence, body image, bullying, cyber safety, friendship and conflict resolution.

On Thursday, December 11 we celebrated the completion of the program as an empowered group of young women.

Thoula and Tiffany would like to thank the students for their hard work in the program and for helping to make the program such a rich experience for all.
Kinetic art goes ‘Splat!’

Who doesn't like throwing paint at a canvas? Our 5/6 Art students this year have been studying ‘Kinetic’ art and other movement based art making techniques. The most successful activity has been the ‘Splat’ canvas. Inspired by artist Jackson Pollock, students threw different coloured paint filled water balloons at a primed and ready canvas. Students were questioned on how much control they could direct over their paint throwing actions and how that influenced the painting. Good fun was had by everyone.

Science students construct catapults

On Friday, December 11, the year eight science class had a catapult construction competition. There was a lot of laughter and some surprising results. The year 9 and 10 work experience students were the building inspectors. When the teams ran out of resources, they had to dance for 30 seconds to gain more. (See Luke and Zac dancing for more resources in the bottom photo!) Ellie from year 10 won the longest distance a projectile was launched from her catapult, AND the most cups scuttled. Harper and Neve won the most visually appealing catapult. Lots of fun was had by all.
In Forest School Nita became a loner, a really good sign as this is how wild orangutans behave in the wild. She was rarely seen socialising with her fellow orangutans, she loved to go off and explore the forest on her own.

It wasn’t rare for Nita to run away from Forest School and visit the homes of the villagers living nearby. This is behaviour that the staff didn’t want to encourage as not only is it inappropriate behaviour for a future wild orangutan, but it could be dangerous for both the villagers and Nita. Thankfully, the villagers contacted us and our technicians were able to bring Nita home.

Unfortunately Nita has been showing signs of aggression to both the staff and other orangutans. With the babysitters she’d show her displeasure at being asked to learn a new task by throwing branches at them or trying to wrestle them after a hug. When Nita bit one of the babysitters, the staff had to take action and she was taken out of Forest School and into the Socialisation Complex.

Although this may look like a set back to our supporters, it’s actually a very good sign that Nita is becoming more wild in her ways and is showing that she’s not dependent on humans.

Nita has been doing very well since her move and has been very active by climbing and hanging from the facility wall and playing with other items, such as sacks.

The enrichment team sometimes hand out fruit balls, which are placed into items requiring the orangutans to spend time working out how to extract the treat. Fruit balls are a favourite for Nita, and she readily spends time trying to get her share out. With the training the enrichment team are receiving from BOS Australia, Nita certainly won’t be bored.

In the wild, baby orangutans learn by imitating their mothers. At Forest School, the carer acts as a surrogate mother and tries to show the babies what they need to do. Jumbo is doing very well at school and follows instructions closely and imitates them. He’s also spending more time up in the trees.

The babysitters are currently focusing on teaching Jumbo what food he can forage from the forest. During his lessons the babysitters crack open a rotten piece of wood, revealing termites. At first Jumbo was confused about why they had done that and was afraid of these crawling insects. He didn’t realise this is a food source for orangutans, one that is quite high in protein. The babysitters have been patient and persistent and have encouraged him to try this new delicacy.

Jumbo is one of the more easy going students. He is keen to learn and has a lot of orangutan friends. However, he really only wants to play with his best friends Obama, Uggang and Erik. They spend much of their time in the trees, swinging and hanging around. The trees are only small but are a good size for young orangutans. When they get tired, they happily climb down and play on the ground.

Although Jumbo is progressing well, he is still clings to his babysitters and likes to get his own way. Jumbo insists the babysitters hold his hand on the way to school, otherwise he refuses to go as he’s unsure of going out on his own. One time a babysitter tried to stand her ground and refused to hold Jumbo’s hand. Jumbo became afraid and cried loudly; the only way to stop his pitiful cries was to give him a bottle of milk!

Unfortunately Jumbo has been the subject of a bit of teasing from a fellow ape. Grappa is a student at the next level of Forest School and enjoys visiting the younger babies for a bit of fun. Unfortunately Jumbo can’t see the fun side when he is continuously being poked by Grappa and ends up angry and upset, running to the babysitters for protection. One can only imagine the big, sad lip on him as he looks up at his carer!

Jumbo loves the feeling of the wind blowing on his face. When the wind blows, the joy on his face is evident and he’ll purse his lips with happiness. The babysitters just love watching him and laugh. It’s wonderful to see him come so far.
A huge thank you goes out to all our friends in the community who have supported our school so generously this past year.

This thanks is not only to local businesses for their amazing donations but also to parents, staff, ex students and community members who have given so freely of their time, talents and enthusiasm. Our school is a better place due to your positivity and commitment.

Thank you all.
COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Olinda Hall Playgroup
Creating Community in the Hills
For children 0-5 years with their parents or caregivers
Olinda Hall
Corner of Olinda-Monbulk Road and The Georgian Road, Olinda

Wednesdays 10.00am - noon
First visit is free

Enquiries: Olinda Community House
9751 1264

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2-DAY HOLIDAY Workshops for 7-13 YR OLDS

CREATE THE SPARK
Igniting children’s creativity through music and circus

18-19 JAN 2016 Spirit of the Arts, Upper Ferntree Gully

$100 2 days

CIRCUS SINGING BAND JAM

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS Fiona T: 0438 833 592
E: fionaseers@gmail.com

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