Welcome back to the new school year which promises to be very exciting. I trust everyone has had a relaxing summer break and a smooth start to the school year. As in the past year, Sherbrooke Community School’s overriding goal is to work collectively towards the Education State’s targets, to ensure our children and young people are well equipped for the future. In my first report of the year I would like to draw your attention to two very important pieces of information for you to read to ensure a smooth and sustainable start to 2017. These topics are school attendance and Sherbrooke’s classification as a BARR school and what that means to families.

ATTENDANCE
School is compulsory for children and young people aged from 6-17 years. Students are expected to attend school during normal hours every day of the term. For absences where no official exemption is in place, parents/guardians must provide an explanation on each occasion to the school. Daily school attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don’t fall behind both socially and developmentally. Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes and higher incomes across their lives. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your child or young person not wanting to attend school on a regular basis, I strongly encourage you to make an appointment to speak to myself, the Assistant Principal, Home Group Teacher or teacher as we may have strategies to assist you.

WHAT BEING A BARR SCHOOL MEANS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
All Victorian schools listed on the Bushfire-At –Risk –Register (BARR) are required to pre-emptively close if they are located in a Bureau of Meteorology district where an EXTREME or CODE RED Danger Rating day has been determined. A decision to close will be made at 1.00pm the day prior and all families notified through Compass. Families will be required to email back that they have received the notice of closure.

On these days Sherbrooke Community School has in place a MOU with Upwey High School situated 1451 Burwood Highway, Upwey, across from the Upwey railway station. We will run our school day from this location. All students are required to make their way to Upwey High School directly from home. Students are NOT to attend Sherbrooke Community School on these days. All our staff will be in attendance at Upwey High School and running our regular school program.

To keep you informed of current fire danger ratings, warnings and incidents visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24 hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667. Sherbrooke Community School is situated in the Central Region. Keep an eye out for more information regarding this important safety initiative.

SCHOOL BUS
Our very patient school bus drivers have informed me of issues during pick up of students in the afternoon inside the school grounds. It is VERY important that parents/guardians picking up their children at home time adhere to the no parking signs. These signs are placed to assist the bus driver with safely parking his bus to facilitate a smooth pick up of students. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Until next month,

Sue Holmes
Principal
School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children’s services listed on the DEECD Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website [http://www.sherbrooke.vic.edu.au/](http://www.sherbrooke.vic.edu.au/) and by talking to your child’s teacher about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.
- For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.
Don’t miss the school picnic fun!

This year’s welcome back to school picnic promises to be the best ever! It will be held this Thursday, February 16 from 5pm.

Meet up on the lawn in front of the school admin buildings. (Or just follow your nose to the smells of the barbecue...) You can bring your own picnic tea or grab a sausage from the barbecue.

We will have games and activities for the kids, rock painting (!!!) (Come along to find out what that’s all about!), a free barbecue, and free treats for the kids as well.

In addition, one lucky family will win a Family Movie Pass to Cameo Cinemas!

We have lots of new families who have joined our Sherbrooke Community this year, as well as some new staff members, so come along and make them all feel welcome.

Following the picnic will be the important “Information Night” which will let you know all about your child’s learning in 2017. It will be particularly interesting to hear about the changes in curriculum, as Sherbrooke is now running with the new “Victorian Curriculum”, as is every government school in the state. Don’t miss this event.

**You are invited to Sherbrooke’s annual**

**Welcome Back Picnic**

- BYO picnic or grab a free sausage from the BBQ
- Meet new families and staff
- Find out what’s new in 2017
- Treats and activities for the kids
- Free movie pass to be won!

**Thursday, February 16 from 5pm**
Meet our team

Steven Merry
Primary Teacher

Thanks to everyone for welcoming me to Sherbrooke Community School. It’s a great environment to work in.
I have been teaching in Primary Schools for six years, and recently have also been working for a few years in the not-for-profit sector, assisting young people to transition into work placements and apprenticeships.
I believe in getting to know every student’s individual interests, strengths and needs and encouraging students to gradually build confidence and take ownership of their learning over time.
Outside of teaching, my passions are writing music, playing piano, and hoping that one day the Collingwood Football Club will remember how to play football again!
I also have an interest in science, meditation and further study in Education. Feel free to visit my classroom any time – I share Grade 2/3/4 with Sarah Corner, and am at Sherbrooke on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Rose Major
Primary Teacher

Rose has joined Sherbrooke from local kinder Kallista Kindergarten, where she taught on various programs, including the Nature Kinder and integrated 3/4-year-old kindergarten programs.
Starting her career as a journalist in London, Rose became inspired by early years learning while running a playgroup in her own children’s early years, so retrained as an early childhood and primary teacher.
Rose has been connected with Sherbrooke for over seven years as mum to Barnaby (Yr7) and Florence (Yr5) and has been a member of School Council during that time, helping to spread the word in the wider community about the great work the school does to support all kinds of learners.
Rose is looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year teaching the P-1 class.
Meet our team

Amy Madden - Secondary Maths Teacher

I have been teaching for 10 years across 3 states.
I am qualified to teach Maths 7-12 (including Specialist), Humanities 7-10, VCE History and Science 7-10.

Maths is the best, of course, so I have all Maths classes this year.
My hobbies include reading, writing, a MMORPG and sleeping.
I have been engaged to my fiancée, Andrew, since 2003 (we’re in no rush) and there are no immediate plans for a wedding yet.
I have two dogs and five cats. I also work for a cat rescue group called Second Chance Cat Rescue so I often have foster kittens running around my house.
My resemblance to Sheldon’s girlfriend on the Big Bang Theory is a source of amusement, especially since the character shares my first name!
As soon as I have an excuse I have a few costumes ready to wear to school; who doesn’t want to attend class taught by a Hogwarts professor?

I think we should make a cameo appearance. I can play Amys' long-lost half-sister Jamie.

Andrew & Amy (Australia)        Sheldon & Amy (The Big Bang Theory)

Don’t miss our Swimming Gala - Tuesday, February 21! All welcome!
Camp Awesome!

At the end of last year Sherbrooke headed off for our annual whole school camp to Camp Manyung.

Our students had a really great time at the beach where they went snorkelling, kayaking, built sand castles, played some French cricket, and relaxed with friends. It was also really amazing to see students of all ages challenge themselves on the giant swing, tree-top course and the other adventure activities.

In the evening, we managed to sneak in some of the old classics such as spotlight and we came up with some new games of our own- the soccer/volleyball combo on the tennis court was a real ‘hit’, but it still needs a name!

Thanks to all those who joined us and made it another special event. Stay tuned to find out where we will be heading next...
Important info you need to know

2017 immunisations
Visit 1 – Friday, March 3
Visit 2 – Thursday, May 25
Visit 3 – Friday, October 13
All year 7 students will soon receive an immunisation pack.
Even if you do not wish for your child to receive the immunisation, please complete the relevant forms and return to the school office.

Funding - CSEF
Parents holding a valid means - tested concession card or temporary foster parents, may be eligible for the Camps Sports and Excursions Fund.
The CSEF allowance will be paid to our school and will be used for expenses relating to camps, sports or excursions.
If you are the holder of a current Centrelink Health Card and you have not completed a CSEF Application Form for this year, please either complete the attached form on page 16 or drop into the office to complete one.
The sooner you apply, the less chance your child has of possibly missing out on certain activities.
For more information please refer the flyer on page 15 or speak to Dot in the office.

Accessing Documents
If you have not yet received your Compass login, or have lost your old one, please contact Jacqui.
All school policies, the canteen menu, copies of our school newsletters, information concerning fundraising, working bees and school forms can be found in the school documentation area.
To access these documents you just click on “two - person” symbol. Next choose “school documentation” from the drop down menu.
From there you simply locate the document you need from the list or from within folders. Easy.

Public Transport – Student and Concession Travel
All students aged 17 years and over, or those requiring a half yearly or yearly Student Pass (regardless of age), are required to obtain a Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Pass Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement.
Applications are available at manned train stations or online at ptv.vic.gov.au
Once completed and attached with two photos where required, please come to the office and see Dot to endorse the form.
It is the responsibility of the student/parent to submit the application to PTV. Students school identification card is not sufficient proof when travelling on public transport.

Student accident insurance/ambulance cover
The Education Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students.
Parents and guardians of students, who do not have private student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance/transport and any other transport costs.
Student accident insurance/ambulance cover policies are available from some commercial insurers.
Further, private property brought into school by students, staff or visitors is not insured. The Education Department and Sherbrooke Community School do not accept any responsibility for loss and/or damage.
This year, the Prep-1 program has changed slightly. Our first hour every morning is a mixture of structured and non-structured learning. Students can access play-based activities such as construction, numeracy and literacy activities/challenges, and they are loving it.

So far, we’ve had picture books written based on Mo Willems’ pigeon books, Lego towers made and measured, and shapes used to paint and draw.

Then we get together and reflect on what we’ve done that morning – what were the problems we came across? How did we respond? How are we going to modify or extend on our work tomorrow?

Here are some of the students’ own words about what they’ve been doing and learning since the start of term:

**Nova** – I painted real life stuff. Squares and for the flowers in the middle I used circles. And for the bottom of the jar I did one side of a circle and for the rest of it went Ziggy-zaggy.

**Kyan** – I’ve been building Lego and it kept falling down at the start so I modified it.

**April** – I made a Lego tower and first I had a smaller base and then I got a bigger base to make it more stable.

**Eden** – We did the Lego Challenge. I built it really tall. It came to just below my knee.

**Marli** – A pigeon book and one of them had a hot dog and I’m starting on another which has a burger. It had a beginning, an end and a middle and a title.

**Orlando** – Funny sentences. I wrote 10.

**Aina** – Brainy blocks. There’s three levels, the pink level, the blue level and the green level. You have to put shapes to make a big picture. Some of them had one way and some had two.

**Corey** – I played with Callum.

**Kira** – My pigeon book’s all done. There was a girl and a pigeon and a hamburger. The problem was that the pigeon didn’t share in the middle. They solved it because the pigeon shared a bit.
Sherbrooke heads to PAVE...

This year Sherbrooke will be involved in the vibrant, creative and engaging PAVE Festival in Emerald.

The festival is a community driven visual and performing arts festival that invites people to gather, share and celebrate.

Sherbrooke students will be running an interactive street art event called PAVE Monsters.

'PAVE MONSTERS' are born out of the concept of 'Pokemon Go' where participants discover, capture and collect Pokemon in the wide world using their smartphones.

The difference with 'PAVE MONSTERS' is that they are in fact physically real and participants at the festival will be invited to find them, photograph them and then keep them as original little art pieces made by our students.

We ran a similar activity last year at school when kids had to search for “Sherbemon”. It was extremely successful.

The PAVE Festival runs from April 2 to 9 in Emerald.

For more information go to www.pave.org.au

Summer canteen menu remains for term one

The Spring/Summer menu from Term Four 2016 is the current menu at our school canteen.

It features all the firm favourites such as fried rice, nachos and our range of delicious salads.

Kids can also design their own rolls or sandwiches using the ingredients on the menu. Or they can go with the suggestions on the menu. Toasting is proving popular, especially on days where Melbourne’s Summer feels quite wintery!

Watch for our new Winter Warmer menu in term two...

Special dietary requirements

We attempt to make the canteen accessible for all Sherbrooke students. We offer vegan, vegetarian, gluten free and dairy free options.

Feel free to drop in any time to see Laura, our canteen manager, to discuss your child’s needs or share some ideas!
Xiuhtezcatl inspires our students

A small group of senior students were privileged to see Xiuhtezcatl Martinez speak at Melbourne’s Sustainability Festival recently.

The 16 year old activist spoke about his passion for the environment.

He has addressed the United Nations and is part of a group suing the US Government for not doing enough to protect his future from Climate Change.

"The 16 year old activist spoke about his passion for the environment... Very inspirational."

Checking out their class DNA

Year 10 Science students recently constructed their "Class Chromosomes".

They used each student’s DNA model to construct the project.
Get excited and get involved in the FREEZA program!

The Freeza program is coming to Sherbrooke for our year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students!

Freeza is a youth development program which, in the past, has been responsible for many local alcohol and drug free events such as Battle of the Bands, Glitch dance parties and many skating events.

Freeza is now providing the opportunity for a group of students from Sherbrooke Community School to design and implement a project of their interest. This could be a music gig, fashion show, art exhibition, electronic music showcase, skate event or lunch time concert. The intention of the program is for the students to design and plan for their project with the support of the Freeza facilitator, Shaun Daly, from the Yarra Ranges Council.

Shaun has worked extensively in youth services and in the music industry. Students will gain skills including, but not limited to, event management, budgeting and risk management. As you can imagine, this will look great on their resumes.

Our first open session was held on Tuesday, February 14 during first break and was a great success. The kids have already begun workshopping ideas for events and potential artists. Watch this space for information about their ideas and progress!

Welcome families!

The wellbeing team welcomes everyone in the Sherbrooke school community back for a new year, including returning families and our new families.

You will often find us in the Wellbeing Centre which is located in the portable building closest to the carpark.

You also find our Wellbeing noticeboard there. It is designed for students and families to easily access various opportunities such as diverse youth and parenting groups, information nights, local community activities, sporting and leisure groups and support resources.

Please remember to visit the student wellbeing link on our school website where you can find information about our team, programs and useful links to external support services.
Community Notices:

The creative excellence of VCE students from across the Yarra Ranges is celebrated in two fascinating exhibitions, hosted by council's cultural venues.

2016 Art and Studio Arts graduates will be part of the tenth annual showcase which delivers a diverse and revealing collection of works by our freshest and most inspiring emerging artists. Featuring 55 students from 15 schools in the Yarra Ranges, including those from Sherbrooke Community School.

The Burrinja Cultural Centre’s exhibition runs from February 18 to March 19, with the opening celebration being held on Friday, February 17 from 6-8pm.

Be sure to catch this exhibition and see what our young artists are capable of.
FOOTY ROADSHOW

AFL YARRA RANGES IS HOLDING A FOOTY ROADSHOW TO PROMOTE THE START OF LOCAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL IN THE REGION

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PLAYING LOCAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL OR UMPIRING OR JUST WANT TO HAVE SOME FOOTY FUN COME AND JOIN US AND PLAY ON THE INFLATABLES

- Local club representatives will be in attendance to promote their clubs
- Umpiring representative will be there to promote umpiring
- Football clinics
- Fun and fitness

26th February 9am to 12pm
Seville Recreation Reserve, Monbulk-Seville Rd, Seville

5th March 9am to 12pm
Upwey Secondary School Oval, Chosen Ave, Upwey

For further information: Dean Rice – dean.rice@afl.com.au or 9735 5146
Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

How to Apply
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Closing Date
You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 26 June 2015.

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
CSEF Application Form

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname__________________________

First name__________________________

Address____________________________

Town/suburb_________________________ State_______ Postcode________

Contact number_______________________

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐ ☐

☐ Foster parent* OR ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (the department) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

• the department will use information I have provided to the DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to the DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

• this consent, once signed, remains valid unless I withdraw it by contacting the school or the department.

• I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from the department and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

• if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

• Some personal information may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, for the purpose of evaluation and monitoring of concession card services.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant__________________________ Date______/______/______

1