A word from our Principal

It has been a very busy but brilliant start to the 2016 year.

It feels like we have just returned from holidays, with Easter getting earlier each year. Students have settled in very well and are producing excellent pieces of work. Quite a number of excursions have taken place for both junior and senior students. The Primary students sleep out is always a success and the Environmental Studies camp to Venus Bay is always educational and enjoyable.

Six of our Year 10 students are involved in the very successful Dandenong Ranges Network interschool mentoring program. The first session was held at the end of February, with another date set for next week. I received an email from the program organiser who said, ‘I have run a lot of these sessions, but your group was truly a pleasure to work with and showed a commitment and maturity beyond my expectations.’ Congratulations to Jessica Wiltshire, Isaac and Finley Foster, Lillie Nieczyporuk, Steph Donaldson and James Roberts for the wonderful work they are doing mentoring younger students in our network.

Each year, about this time, School Council nominations are called for. We have a number of places available on the council for both parent and community members. If you are interested in volunteering for this very rewarding experience, nomination forms can be found on compass or are available at the front office. The term will be from April 2016 to March 2018. Nominations close on Friday March 11 at the end of the school day.

Our School Improvement work continues this year. The School Improvement Team and Year Level Coordinators have been working on clarifying the roles and responsibilities of Year Level Coordinators and Home Group Teachers. Another document of great importance is the outlining of the Code of Conduct for Students, Parents and Teachers. These documents are designed to create a culture of high expectations, shared accountability and responsibility. Keep an eye out for explicit visible expectation for staff, students and families.

With only three more weeks of the school term left, with two of those containing a public holiday, I would like to wish all our families a safe and happy Easter break. Students should use the time to catch up with any outstanding work and balance the time with healthy pursuits.

Term two is one of our longest - 11 weeks.

Until next term,

Best Regards,

Sue Holmes

Acting Principal
Bushfire At-Risk Register - Schools

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 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 Commission 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 advises 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.

[Logo: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development]
Primary kids have fun with science

On Thursday March 3 our primary students went on their first excursion for 2016 - to the Scienceworks and Planetarium Museum.

On arrival they split up into two groups and explored some of the various exhibitions within the museum.

The Prep-2 students went into the ‘Nitty Gritty Super City” exhibition. This exhibition was set in a mini metropolis where the students could investigate various materials, sounds and objects.

The grade 3s to 6s went to the ‘Think Ahead’ exhibition. There, students were able to explore a range of technologies from the past, see how they have evolved to what we have today and then look at where they might take us into the future!

Next stop was the Planetarium. Students were seated in reclining chairs so they had uninterrupted views of the dome ceiling. They watched a movie called ‘Tilt’, where they learnt about how Earth’s tilt gives us our seasons. After that movie, they were treated to projections of the night sky of Melbourne and were shown various constellations and where they are located in the sky.

Overall it was a fantastic day and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.
Art and Writing from the Prep-1s

Some of our littlest students give their impressions of their big day out at The Planetarium, Scienceworks, and camping out at school.

Kobi
“ This is when we went to Scienceworks.”

Orlando
“ Kyan is asleep. Then he accidentally went in my sleeping bag and then he rolled me out of my bed.”

Eden
“ This is me sleeping in a tent.”

April
“ This is me playing at Nitty Gritty Super City with Tristan.”

Will
“ I liked the part when we watched Space Jam.”

Miles
“ At the sleepover Orlando fell on me while I was sleeping.”

Tessa
“ I liked my sleepover. It was lots of fun because it was Kyan’s birthday yesterday. I liked the cake.”

Kyan
“ Me and the other kids watching a movie on the big roof screen.”

Olivia
“ Scienceworks. I liked the movie.”
Primary camp was a ton of fun!

Thursday, March 3, was a big day for the primary students.

First they had an excursion to Scienceworks and the Planetarium (see page 3) and then when they got back to school, it was time for the primary sleepover.

Students arrived back at school at around 5:30pm where they helped each other put up their tents on the back field. Once all of the tents were up and the students knew where they were sleeping, it was time for dinner.

The food was expertly prepared by Lara, Laura and a wonderful team of parent helpers. After dinner it was time for a movie and some games.

It had obviously been a very big day for everyone, since when it was time to go to bed, there was very little complaining.

The next morning everyone was awake nice and early. It was then time to take down the tents, have breakfast and get ready for another day of school.

Once again, a big thank you to all of the parents who helped set up the tents and for the beautiful array of food provided.
Whole school in the swim!

Finally... we were blessed with amazing weather for the first of our whole school sports carnivals. With great weather and the highest attendance from our students ever, Belgrave pool was a buzz of activity and joy. A large crowd of parents (also the most ever) were there to cheer on the kids as well.

As per usual, we kicked things off with the primaries in the water. They took part in a mix of traditional and novelty events. The cork scramble was a big hit, as was the new cup and saucer race.

As the sun began to shine in the early afternoon, so did the secondary students in the freestyle and breaststroke events. The staff vs students race attracted a lot of attention. The staff were victorious - but only just!

A new event, the “big splash”, was a big hit, with massive crowds gathering to watch! Competitors literally had to jump in the pool making the biggest splash possible in front of our distinguished panel of splash judges.

Speaking of big crowds, an unexpected dance-off developed near our resident DJ, Luciano! He had the crowd dancing away to some of the old floor fillers of yesteryear. At one point there was even a conga line rocking around the pool!
A note from School Council...

As you would have seen on Compass, the process to nominate new members of School Council is now open. We are looking for a few new members to replace those who have either decided not to re-nominate or whose children have now left the school. Council meets on the final Wednesday of the month and I would encourage anybody wanting to get involved in the school to put their name in. School Council and its sub-committees are responsible for supporting the operation of the school: approving the budget; organising Working Bees and hiring contractors; approving excursions and camps; and ensuring there are adequate policies and other documents in place. Council meets twice a term and we have various sub-committees members join: Grounds, Facilities, Fundraising, Education and Finance. We are also actively hoping to find a Grants Officer from among our parent community for various projects we would like to focus on.

You don’t need any direct experience in any of these areas to join Council – we value the very diverse range of skills and experiences in our community and these can be used in many of the areas Council supports the school in.

If you are thinking about nominating but would like to know more before filling in the form (available on Compass), please let Dot know and I will do my best to contact you during the week for a chat.

Our first meeting of the new Council – which is also a public meeting to report on Council’s proceedings over the last year – is on Wednesday, March 23. All members of the school community are welcome to attend.

Rose Major
School Council President

Our swimmers shine at district comp

Primary students Oscar Woodward and Michael Spirt competed in the district primary swimming carnival recently.

Oscar (pictured) came first in all his events and will now go on to compete at the regional event in Ringwood later this term.

Students are permitted to compete in just two events at the regional final and Oscar chose freestyle and breast stroke.

Michael also performed well bringing home a fourth in free style and a third in backstroke.

Congratulations to them both for having a go and being great sports.
International visitors come to Sherbrooke

Sherbrooke has played host to two French students this term. Zachary, 17, was in Year 11 and Maya, 5, joined our Prep class.

They were with us for six weeks, with the aim of improving their English speaking skills.

Their mother, Kelly (nee Hayes) was part of Sherbrooke’s very first intake of students in 1985.

Kelly and Christophe first met when he was an exchange student at Sherbrooke for a year in 1989.

After moving to France in 1991 to be an au pair, Kelly reconnected with Christophe and the rest, as they say, is history.

The couple has two older children as well, Chloe, 23 and Freya, 21. The family lives in Coulon in Poitou Charentes, on the Atlantic Coast.

Kelly remembers Sherbrooke Community School as a caring, nurturing place that fostered a strong sense of community, mutual respect and a strong commitment from the teachers. “It was very new: unstructured and alternative. The students played a big part in deciding the course content. I liked the freedoms it offered and not being pigeonholed”

Now as a parent, Kelly is even more impressed.

“We have been made so welcome, I just feel like I have fitted right back in”

“Sherbrooke still has all the great elements of caring, respect, teacher commitment and acceptance of people for who they are. But, I can also see that the school has matured and improved over the years. I think now they have the balance just right”

Kelly is hoping her children will be able to return to Sherbrooke on future visits as well.

We want our students to tell us what they think

Our school is conducting a survey in the week commencing 18 April to find out what your child thinks of our school. The Attitudes to School survey is an annual survey for Year 5 to 12 students offered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students’ perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child’s experience at school.

Students in Year 5 to Year 12 will participate in this year’s survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school over the period Monday, April 20 to Friday, May 1. The survey only takes 20-30 minutes to complete and occurs during your child’s class time.

The survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of July and will be communicated to parents through The Annual Report to the School Community. Last year we used the survey results to develop our wellbeing program and activities.

Please speak to your child’s teacher if you would like more information.
Our Wellbeing Expo is back!

Sherbrooke Community School is proud to be holding its Second Annual Wellbeing Expo on Thursday, March 24 (The last day of Term One).

Our 2015 Wellbeing Expo proved to be a great success, with many students and staff participating in different activities that promote a healthy mind and body.

The students’ positive attitudes of having a go at the new activities was contagious. Some students even provided feedback that there were activities they would like to bring into their everyday lives.

This year we are excited to announce the activities on the day will include Karate, Body Balance, Zumba, Karaoke, Tai Chi, Primary Scavenger Hunt, Sculpture Art Therapy, Drum Meditation and much more!

The Yarra Ranges Council will hold a break-time stall to promote their many social, leisure and sports programs to interested students. Please don’t be disheartened if you miss this stall, as their program flyers are always displayed on the Wellbeing Noticeboard (located on the window of our Wellbeing Centre) for everyone to access.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the day!

Please come with a positive open mind and dressed in comfortable clothing.

Legal Needs in the Dandenong Ranges

A not-for-profit legal service in the eastern suburbs is carrying out a Legal Needs Study with a view to establishing a free legal advice outreach service in the Dandenong Ranges, subject to sufficient need.

Do you live in the Dandenong Ranges?

Have you had any issues in the past five years for which you required legal advice? For example, have you had anyone chasing you for money, any issues with your landlord, or have you experienced violent, threatening or controlling behaviour from someone you know and trust?

If the answer is ‘Yes’ to these questions, your feedback would be greatly appreciated. Surveys can be completed at Yarra Ranges Council Community Links in Monbulk and Upwey, and Eastern Regional Library branches in Mount Evelyn and Belgrave. Or you can find the survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53L8BSZ until the end of March.
Meet our team

Denise Dempsey (DD)
Secondary Science and Sustainability Teacher

I started at Sherbrooke in 1991 as a part time Maths teacher. I left in 1999 to do a Diploma of Visual Arts while my daughter and son went to Sherbrooke. During that time I volunteered to be Canteen Manager and I also helped out in the office. I came back in 2007 as the part-time Lab. assistant. In 2008 I started teaching Environmental Science – my first love. Since then I have taught science, environmental science or sustainability to every level.

I love working with all levels, especially when we can get into nature. My desire is to help students care for this wonderful world and all of its species. Sherbrooke is in my blood and it would be great to one day see it as a beacon of how a school can integrate its grounds into the curriculum with animal husbandry, farming, and bushland conservation.

It would also be terrific to be a 5 star Sustainable school and be off the grid!

Tasty treats from Canteen

Did you know that fresh fruit smoothies are now available from our canteen? Kids can choose from mixed berry or banana. Jaxom, Ellie and Chloe think they are “so good they have to be shared!”

March 18 is the National Day Against Bullying and Violence. Last year we showed our support by wearing orange ribbons. This year we should be able to wear heaps more orange, as it won’t be school photo day! So get Orange everyone!!!

"Meet the hardworking staff at Sherbrooke Community School"
Community Notices:

Back to School asthma spike

Every year there is a well-documented rise in asthma flare-ups and hospitalisations when students return to school after the Christmas break. Asthma Australia has information for parents of students with asthma to help them prepare for school. Asthma Australia’s website and social media provide the latest information, including a checklist of what to do to help your child and a survey to complete to determine the impacts for parents/carers.

Asthma Australia recommends that you talk to school staff about your child’s asthma and the school’s medication policy, provide an Asthma Plan from the doctor and supply a spare reliever puffer and spacer for your child’s use at school.

For primary aged students:

Asthma Kids

Looking for a way to help your child understand more about their asthma or about a friend with asthma? Asthma Kids is an online, interactive tool to help primary school aged children understand what it’s like to have asthma and what they can do to help. Watch one of the introductory videos then take Chester’s Asthma Trail. There are prizes to win too! [www.asthmakids.org.au](http://www.asthmakids.org.au)

For secondary aged students:

Young People and Asthma

Asthma Australia is working with key organisations supporting young people’s health to help improve asthma health outcomes for 12-25 year olds. A Facebook page, Young People with Asthma – Australia, provides a range of information for these young people and their supporters. Every two months Asthma Australia will also run a Question and Answer session that is proving very popular. Check out the page for our posts and promotion for upcoming Q and A sessions.
Simply mention that you are a Sherbrooke Community School family and receive a 10% discount at Divine Gift Olinda
Join Pinnacle Health Club Upwey in March on a 12 or 18 month membership and receive a FREE 24HR card normally $49. You must bring this ad in to redeem.