A word from our Principal

As Term 4 progresses, it is time to turn our attention to the potential of bushfires occurring in our area.

School procedures as outlined by the Department of Education’s Emergency Management Department for the bushfire season are firmly in place, as is Sherbrooke Community School’s in-school Emergency Plan. Our school is listed on the Bushfire At-Risk-Register (BARR) which means the school will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in our Bureau of Meteorology district. Your attention is directed to PAGE TWO of this newsletter that outlines clear procedures for these days.

An information session for parents/guardians will be run at a later date.

The VCE students have commenced sitting for their final exams. Last Friday the Drama students performed their monologues. The suite of exams will begin with the Vet Music Performance here at Sherbrooke Community School on October 23 and written exams commence on the October 28. We wish all our students the very best and every success.

The focus of the School Improvement Team this month has been on the Sherbrooke Community School’s Strategic Plan covering the years 2016-2019. Our Strategic Plan outlines our 4-year goals based on the findings of the Priority Review and the outcomes we are seeking to deliver. The goals address the areas of Achievement, Engagement, Wellbeing and Productivity.

The five key goals are:

- Improving the learning growth of every student in literacy and numeracy
- Increasing the active engagement of each student in their learning
- Improve student connectedness to the school
- Improve the Performance and Development culture of the school community
- Increase the capacity of the school to function as a strategic organisation

November 20 is our last student-free day for the year. The staff will be working with Tracey Ezard on the fifth goal outlined above. Tracey will be guiding us through the whole school development of vision and values towards creating a thriving and collaborative learning culture. Parents/Guardians are reminded that students will not be required at school that day and will need to make alternate care arrangements for their children.

Until next month,

Sue Holmes
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 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 telephone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website 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 or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.
I have been teaching at Sherbrooke Community for the last 17 years.
I have taught a number of subjects over the years including English, Health and Food Technology.
I have seen many changes at the school and each year I love discovering who is in my class and how they learn.
I haven’t been at Sherbrooke continuously over the last 17 years, as I have taken time out to have my amazing family.
I am lucky enough to have four young children that never let my life get boring.
Outside of Sherbrooke I do volunteer work for my local Multiple Birth Club (I have 5 year old twins) and for Foodbank Australia.
I believe it is really important to give as much back to the community as you can.
I feel I have been very fortunate to be involved with the Sherbrooke Community and I am really looking forward to seeing some old faces at the 30 year reunion later this year.

I have been teaching in the P-2 area at Sherbrooke for 4 years. Teaching the littlest group of students has its challenges, particularly on a Friday afternoon when they are all exhausted and the likelihood of tears and tantrics is high. But it is also immensely rewarding; being part of their academic, social and emotional development and seeing those little moments when something they have been struggling to develop finally clicks. It’s pretty special. Being able to provide a safe and positive learning environment is one of the most important aspects for me as a teacher and I’m grateful that Sherbrooke allows me the flexibility to provide that to my students.
I am a member of School Council and heavily involved in the Fundraising, Marketing and Communication subcommittee; I enjoy being able to promote the school, to show the community how unique we are and the great learning opportunities we provide. I introduced Parents’ Group this year and have enjoyed getting to know our parents and working with them on events and activities.
I am also busy completing my Masters in Education (Gifted Education), I am hoping to complete my thesis by the end of next year. It’s been pretty challenging but has given me a much greater understanding of the education system and of student learning. When I’m not working or studying, I like to de-stress by being active - hitting the gym or being active outdoors.
I look forward to continue being part of the development and growth of the little people that come into my classroom and to watching them grow into big people with amazing talents and skills!
Sherbrooke 30 Years Festival and Reunion

You're invited to Sherbrooke Community School on Saturday, Nov 21st from 11am! 311 Mt Dandenong Rd, Sassafras
It’s time to celebrate our awesome school!

Sherbrooke’s 30 year anniversary is drawing closer and we have planned lots of fun for students, their families, past Sherbies and of course the community!

Our 30 Years Festival and Reunion will get underway at 11am on Saturday, November 21 and you are all invited to join in the fun!

There will be lots of activities for the whole family - competitions, workshops, commemorative tree plantings and mural paintings, and more... The entertainment will be non stop as we celebrate the talents of all our students past and present in music and theatre. Some famous Sherbies performing will be John Marsden of Wild Turkey, Dom McKay, Kaisha Hekimian and Blin Vanheems of Daisy West, just to name a few.

Delicious food will be available from Lady Paella and Babaji’s Kitchen and try creating your own fruit smoothie by pedal power!

Browse a range of homemade items at our local market stalls, have your photo taken with old school mates or get your face painted - So much fun to choose from!

What’s on at the festival...

- Music by Sherbies past and present
- Tree Planting - dig it!
- 30 Years Mural - get painting!
- Amazing Race style challenge
- Photo booth
- Reunion tent
- Circus workshops
- Market stalls
- Theatre performances
- Face Painting
- Historical & student displays
- Heaps of prizes to win...
- And much more...

Make your mark at Sherbrooke

As part of Sherbrooke’s 30 Year Celebrations we will be offering all Sherbies – past and present, staff, students and families - to leave a lasting impression on our school.

Order a carved paver, like the one pictured, to commemorate your time at Sherbrooke. It could include your name, year level or years you attended, a drawing, a message - you decide!

The number of pavers ordered will determine the final project, but we are hoping to pave the area in front of the school hall.

Each paver will cost $30 and could be for a family, business or an individual associated with our school. Watch for order forms - coming home soon!
Kids share knowledge in Boronia

Pancho, Alice, Nathan, Emily, Florence, Jack, Hailie, Elysia and Oscar (from the primaries) and Jackson and Caitlin (from the secondaries) participated in a local Kids Teaching Kids workshop on Thursday, September 10.

Hosted by Boronia West Primary school, there were several schools there – all wanting to share their knowledge about sustainability.

All students participated in other schools’ workshops, which included Environmental drama (the most popular), sorting rubbish and making dishes from school veggie patches.

Our workshop was on soil and how the pH affects the availability of nutrients and how this might affect the success of growing plants from cuttings.

After a brief introduction our students took a small group each and showed them how to test for pH levels. The students then tested the three mediums themselves. Then we showed them how to take cuttings and use hormone treatment and the right medium selection to have success. The other students made many cuttings from our very own, very old fashioned lavender. All the students thought it was a great day and they learnt a lot.

The workshop was one of many throughout Victoria and over 500 schools took part. We are all now looking forward to next year’s Kids Teaching Kids get-together.

Congratulations on cleaning out your closets!

Congratulations on a great effort for our Closet Cleanout fundraiser. We collected 393kg of clothes, bags and shoes AND we raised $78.60.

Not only did we raise money for our school, but we also helped to create employment in developing countries, provide affordable clothing for people in need and reduce landfill!

Well done everyone!
Sherbie sportsmen shine!

Mytch...
Year nine student, Mytchell Brooks has been nominated by Basketball Victoria to try out for the College Basketball Scheme along with 280 others. National Sports Recruitment (NSR) conducted try outs where 150 were invited to attend an interview. Mytch was one of 60 applicants to be chosen to train and compete in the USA College Basketball competition in the August of 2019 after he completes year 12.

He will have the opportunity to study and play basketball in America.

Jackson...
Jackson Griffiths, one of our VCAL students, has been scouted to join the VFL Umpire development squad as a goal umpire. He was spotted by VFL Officials whilst he was umpiring the Division One senior grand final this year.

Jackson has been umpiring Australian Rules games for three years and in our local association for the past two. Trials to be chosen in the development squad will be held throughout December 2015 and January next year. Jackson will need to meet benchmarks in fitness, endurance and agility. He will also be tested on how he deals with mental stress and of course on his knowledge of the rules of the game.

An ongoing ranking process will decide the final squad, which will be announced in March next year. Jackson’s ultimate goal is to become an umpire with the AFL.

Sherbrooke Community School is really proud of the achievements of both these students and wish them great success in achieving their dreams.
Uncle Bill makes big impression on students

We were very lucky to have had Uncle Bill from The Wurundjeri People come visit us late in Term 3. He performed a ‘Welcome to Country’ smoking ceremony that involved the whole school. Once the school community had been welcomed, the Senior class, along with some visitors from Upwey High, went with Uncle Bill to listen to stories about Dreamtime and the historical timeline of the Wurundjeri on Country.

The Year 12’s are studying two indigenous texts this year with our Identity and Belonging Context.

The two hour talk Uncle Bill gave was an invaluable source of information. He was able to provide the students with real context that they will be able to use within their writing.

It was wonderful to have Uncle Bill visit and hopefully we will see him at Sherbrooke again soon working with our students.

Congratulations Nat

A big congratulations to Natalee Klodinsky who received an award for Certificate III in Music Performance from the Mullum Cluster.

Natalee received a certificate, medallion and free movie ticket. The Mullum Cluster Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, October 13 in Wantirna South.

The Mullum VET cluster is a co-operative group of 42 Government, Catholic and Independent schools operating in partnership to deliver a wide range of (VET) programs to students who reside in the eastern corridor of Melbourne.

Natalee is a worthy winner and we are very proud of her!
New canteen menu for warmer months

Our “Sherbies Canteen” has launched a new menu for the warmer terms. Gone are the heavier bakery items replaced instead by a range of rolls, wraps and salads.

There are a number of warm items such as corn fritters and samosas and there will be home-made specials every Wednesday. Watch Compass for news of these specials!

Students will be happy to see the return of icy poles and the introduction of “FUN Fridays” - when the kids can order pizzas and ice-cream! Fun Fridays will get underway as soon as the sausage sizzle fundraisers for the School Yearbook are finished. Probably in early November - again, watch Compass for news of this.

The new menu also reflects an effort to provide delicious food for all students including those with allergies and special diets.

For your copy of the menu check into Compass under “School Documents” or on our website http://www.sherbrooke.vic.edu.au/ under the “Showcase” tab.

Boys make divisional sports comp

Sherbrooke was this year represented at the Dandenong Ranges Divisional Athletics Championships.

Year five students Oscar Woodward and Nathan Milligan competed in track events, while Year four student, Michael Spirt, competed in shot-put after success at the district level.

While the boys did not get through to the State competition it was a great achievement to get this far and they should be proud of their hard work.

Nathan, Oscar and Michael were proud to represent their school.
COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Let the Kids Join in the Fun

Sunday 22nd November 2015
Puffing Billy Railway Station Gembrook

Children aged 3 to 12 years get the chance to run with Thomas the Tank Engine and Puffing Billy

For more information and registration go to: www.kidsfunrunwiththomas.org.au

FRIENDS OF SHERBROOKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Holcim is the company which did such a fabulous job resurfacing our school car park. We are really grateful for the work they did and the professional manner in which they conducted themselves.

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HALLOWEEN

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New School Form: "I’ve had Asthma First Aid today"
We are pleased to introduce a new asthma resource for schools funded by the Australian Government as part of the Asthma Child and Adolescent Program.

The new school form, “I’ve had Asthma First Aid today” is a simple way to advise parents and carers about the school’s management of an asthma incident experienced by their child. It records details about the time and place of the asthma flare up, the medication administered and any follow up required.

The form is provided as a writable pdf that can be emailed to the family or as a standard pdf for staff to print and complete by hand. Both formats are attached.

Asthma Education for Parents & Carers
The Asthma Foundation of Victoria is funded to provide FREE Asthma Education Sessions to Parents and Carers. Foundation Staff can come to your School or Children’s Centre and speak directly to parents of children with asthma. Please see the attached Flyer for more details or contact us on 1800 ASTHMA for more information.

National Asthma Week (NAW)
A big THANK YOU to all who became actively involved in their communities during National Asthma Week!

Triple A
Asthma Adolescent Action Program

Triple A is the first peer-led education program to improve the health & wellbeing of students with asthma.

Why is Triple A different?

- Innovative student-centred approach
- Students become the drivers of both the teaching and learning
- Hands-on activities e.g.: videos and games
- Informative and participatory
- Having fun is central to all aspects of learning!

There are still some places available for Term 4 2015, including a condensed program if time availability is limited.

For further information please see our website: www.asthma.org.au/Programs/TripleAProgram or contact Rebecca Colcott at rcolcott@asthma.org.au

Melbourne Pollen Count returns!
The daily updated Pollen Count is now available on our website.
New Newsletter format
In 2016 the Asthma Australia School Newsletter will be provided in a new format using online technology. With our new Staff Attendance forms now collecting each staff member’s email for face-to-face training and the use of the online training also providing staff emails, we will be able to deliver the new newsletter directly to you at your convenience.

The new format will come out twice a year, in school terms one and three, from now on.

Generally this will occur through the newsletters but there may be a need at other times to inform you of program developments.

To ensure wide distribution to staff, we will continue to provide the newsletter to each site through your contact person with the local Asthma Foundation also.

Online training
The use of online training for school staff via our e-learning hub continues to increase, with 40% of all sites doing training using the online package in the last report period (Jan-Jul 2015).

As well as online training offering an option to remote schools where a trainer may not be available, staff that miss attending a face-to-face session can also be trained around the same time as their colleagues, ensuring a whole of staff approach to the safety and support of students with asthma.

A further advantage of online training is that you can do it any time and as many times as you want and you can log out at any time and resume later. In our survey of online users, 30% of staff indicated that they used the package to update their asthma knowledge, e.g. when they had a new student with asthma enroll in their class.

When we see a staff member has done online training in a site that has not had recent training, we will contact the site and discuss options to help all staff to be asthma trained. The use of online training for whole staff is increasing in both rural and metro schools as this mode suits many staff due to its flexibility.
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