



Volume 31 Number 16

Participation ,Aspiration, Inclusion ,Resilience ,Respect,

Principal's Letter 24th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

A few weeks ago, I announced my resignation as Principal of Stawell Secondary College. I would like to give you some of the history behind my role as Principal and the legacy which I will be leaving behind after my departure.

At the beginning of 2019 I was approached by the region in order to take on the acting position as Principal of Stawell Secondary College. At the beginning of this tenure, I noticed that Stawell Secondary School students were different, they were very honest, forward, and polite. These students were insightful, respectful and knew what the play was. They did not self-censure their thoughts and were vocal in appropriately expressing their concerns and frustration that they did not feel they had a voice that was heard at our school.

Over the last three years, at a school level, there have been some major challenges in re-structuring aspects of the school and re-aligning our engagement with “the learning” as a relational process rather than a transactional one. Schools are often nuanced and complex organisations to manage as they deal with a variety of different individuals, their families, and individual’s personal circumstances. I trust that we all recognise the amazing work that teachers do every day to make this work seamless and harmonious for most of the time. If we include the social and economic chaos that a global pandemic brought to our shores, we can clearly see the great job our teachers have done in facing these challenges head on and in ensuring students continued with their education despite these health challenges.

The main focus for my work has been to set robust systems and procedures together with a renewed focus on the learning for all members of Stawell Secondary College. A focus on building leadership capacity and improving relationships among our staff was a key driver of my work, these drivers aimed at ensuring a more sustainable school for the future, a school where staff were able to work in collaboration to improve the social and educational outcomes for our students. Evidence of successful schools worldwide indicate that when a school has a strong and collaborative leadership team, their outcomes improve together with the overall improvement in the culture of the school.

Currently I am happy to report to parents that Stawell Secondary College has a very strong and collaborative leadership team. The school also has a significant number of emerging leaders who are motivated, driven and are developing their leadership skills to improve Stawell Secondary College. We all recognise that we still have a way to go before this school becomes the best school in the Wimmera South-West. Stawell Secondary College has all the right ingredients to ensure that this is a realistic and aspirational goal and one which we are all committed to.

The school has a robust focus on teaching and learning and is using a relational approach to encourage students to succeed. Our school values have also been finalised as parents, students and teachers have collaborated on this through 2021. Our students and staff will hold each other to account on our agreed values to ensure SSC culture continues to improve despite the disruptions which will be brought upon by our building program in 2022.

I am very proud of the way students, staff and parents have been able to support each other during these uncertain times. Even though things do not always go the way we want to, giving each other feedback and supporting each other will ultimately improve us all.

I leave behind a Stawell Secondary College team which will support and encourage students improve their education. A team that I am proud of and a team which will see Stawell Secondary College flourish over the next 5 years.

Thank you all for the great support you have offered me, both as individuals and as a community, over the last three years. I am immensely grateful that you have entrusted the education of your children to the teams I have led over the last 3 years.

Carlos Lopez



PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

It is currently more important than ever for the school to have the most up to date family details on our system.

If you have recently moved, changed email, phone number or any other details please let you school know ASAP.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES within the area

Commercial Cookery Apprenticeship – Eventide Homes
Electrical Apprenticeship- Stawell
Tyre Fitter/Repairer – Stawell
Wine Industry – Apprenticeship – Glenlofty
Junior Supper Person – Stawell Regional Health
Food & Domestic Services Assistants – Stawell Regional Health
Welders/ Metal Fabrication – Action Steel Stawell – possible school based apprenticeships

Let Cindy know if you are interested or would like more information or help with resumes

WE'RE HIRING!



Are you or someone you know doing it tough? Stawell Inter Church Council welfare cottage at 20 Sloane St Stawell is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.30am - 12.30pm.

For after hours emergencies ring - 0408 038 949.

To request a Christmas grocery shopping voucher ring – 0408 877 021 on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Distribution will be on Tuesday 14th December.

Owing to Covid 19 there will be no children's toys or books available this year

2022 VCE English Students

VCE YEAR 11s 2022

You can purchase the following novels for English second-hand from current Year 11s:

Pride & Prejudice by Jane Austen
Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

VCE YEAR 12s 2022

You can purchase the following novels for English second-hand from current Year 12s:

Nine Days by Toni Jordan
Ransom by David Malouf

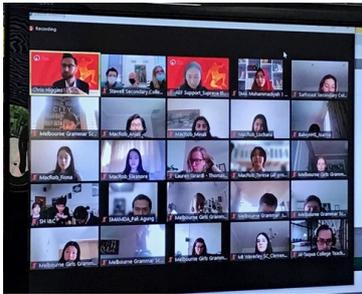
Please talk to students from the 2021 cohort to sort out any purchases or keep an eye on the noticeboard outside the Senior Centre Staff office for potential book sales.

Chinese Program Victorian Young Leaders Global Forum

Year 9 students Charlotte, Bella and Erin have participated in two events with the Victorian Young Leaders Global Youth Forum. Through these events, we listened to some inspiring stories from the youth panellists and communicated with schools in Victoria, China and Indonesia and exchanged the information and opinions about ‘local community’, ‘globalization’, ‘challenges in education’ and other interesting topics. Our students found it informative listening to different perspectives and this sparked new ideas around the themes and topics.

The three students are doing an exceptional job and have been invited to provide some closing remarks for the closing ceremony this Friday. It will be a great opportunity to present Stawell Secondary College to over 200 schools who are involved in this global event. We look forward to hearing the three students’ reflections after the post-forum.

Photos:



Zoom meeting with over 200 schools globally



Students from our Shanghai sister school

Year 9 Pen Pal Program Student Letter Samples



Year 12 Chinese Class Farewell

The Year 12 Chinese students completed their VCE Chinese exam this Monday 15th November which was their last VCE exam. As a teacher who taught them for 6 years or more from primary schools, I would like to acknowledge their persistence, consistency and effort throughout their entire Chinese learning journey. To Lachie Dalkin, Chelsea Peachey, Rhianna Pellerin, Melissa Sanders and Gemma Senior, best wishes for your future. Embrace the world with an open mindset from your language and culture learning experiences. From Ms Ling



Year 12 Chinese Students doing a Chinese Square Dance ‘Little Apple’ at their last day in class

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

22/11/21—26/11/21— Year 11 Headstart program
25/11/21— Presentation Day
26/11/21— Hair with Heart
26/11/21— Year 11's Last Day
4/12/21— 2020 Presentation Ball—Delayed
7/12/21— Year 6 Orientation Day
16/12/21— Year 12 Graduation
17/12/21— Last Day of Term 4

Year 12 Graduation



When: 16th December

Time: 5:30 pm

Cost: \$40 per ticket

Where: Stawell Town Hall

Attire: Formal

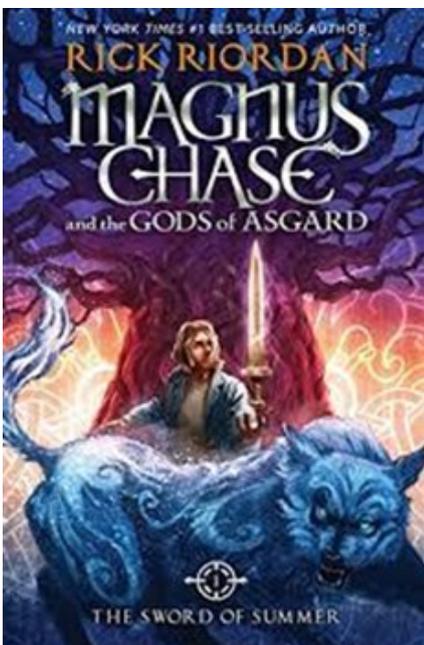
Please note:

Students are limited to two guest tickets as well as their own.

All attendees must be fully vaccinated and show proof upon arrival on the night.

Book of the Week

Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard
The Sword of Summer
Author: Rick Riordan



Magnus Chase has seen his share of trouble. Ever since that terrible night two years ago when his mother told him to run, he has lived alone on the streets of Boston, surviving by his wits, staying one step ahead of the police and the truant officers.

One day, Magnus learns that someone else is trying to track him down – his uncle Randolph, a man his mother had always warned him about. When Magnus tries to outmanoeuvre his uncle, he falls right into his clutches. Randolph starts rambling about Norse history and Magnus's birthright; a weapon that has been lost for thousands of years.

The more Randolph talks, the more puzzle pieces fall into place. Stories about the gods of Asgard, wolves, and Doomsday bubble up from Magnus's memory. But he doesn't have time to consider it all before a fire giant attacks the city, forcing him to choose between his own safety and the lives of hundreds of innocents.....

Sometimes, the only way to start a new life is to die.