

Principal's Report

Bell times for 2020

A reminder to all parents that new bell times will apply from next year onwards. These were published in a previous newsletter.

Time	Period
8:55 am - 9:00 am	Warning bell
9:00 am – 9:05 am	Homegroup
9:05 am - 9:55 am	Period 1
9:55 am – 10:45 am	Period 2
10:45 am – 11:10 am	Recess
11:10 am – 11:15am	Warning Bell
11:15 am - 12:05	Period 3
12:05 am – 12:55 pm	Period 4
12:55 pm – 1:40 pm	Lunch
1:40 pm - 1:45 pm	Warning bell
1:45 pm – 2:35 pm	Period 5
2:35 pm – 3:25 pm	Period 6

Student's final weeks of 2019

Arrangements for dismissal of students in 2019 are outlined below. It is important for parents of Year 10 students to pay particular attention to this:

Year 10 students are able to be dismissed after Thursday 12 December 2019 only if the school has evidence of suitable employment or a parent request. These requests are to be put in writing to Heidi Lang before 12 December 19.

Current Year 11 students will be dismissed from the end of the Head-start classes that conclude on **Thursday 5 December 2019**.

Year 10 students may be dismissed from the end of the school day on **Thursday 12 December 2019** on request of a parent, provided the principal has received satisfactory evidence that the student has suitable employment or a parent request.

All students up to and including Year 9, and Year 10 students who do not fall in the category above, are required to attend school until the end of the last school day on **Friday 20 December 2019**. Parents should be aware that from 18 December 2019 until 20 December 2019 the School will provide a program for students geared towards preparation of the school spaces and environment for 2020.

Students will be dismissed at 2:20pm on 20 December 2019.

Presentation Evening

On Wednesday 18 December 2019 Presentation Evening will be commencing at 7.30pm in the Assembly Hall. Students are to wear full school uniform. All parents, family and friends are welcome to attend. Reports will be distributed to students at the end of the ceremony.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

05 December	GRAMPS EOY Excursion 845am Bus loop - 345pm
10 December	State wide orientation day future Yr7 students.
11 December	Year 9 Ambassadors Excursion Ballarat 9am - 5pm
11 December	Year 7 Halls Gap Zoo Excursion 9am - 310pm
12-13 December	ATSI Cultural Camp Melbourne - Stawell Station 740am departure.
18 December	Presentation Evening commences 730pm in the assembly hall.

Student free days for 2020

School Council has approved the following student free days in 2020:

- 28 & 29 of January
- Melbourne Cup Monday (2 November)

Parents will be informed of the remaining student free day in February 2020.

Book of the Week

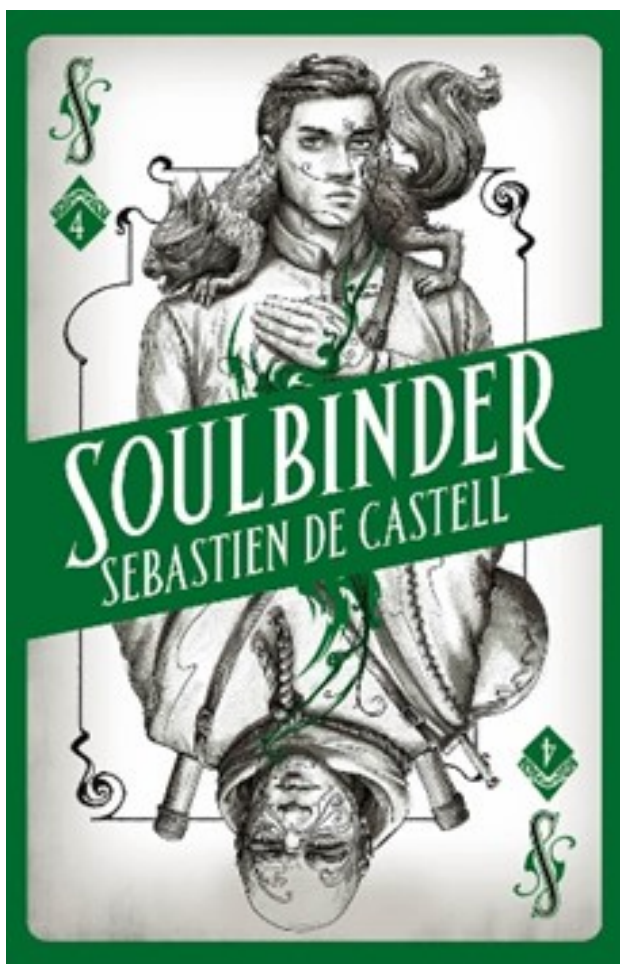
Soulbinder

Author: Sebastian De Castell

Fate can be fatal.

Kellen and Reich is are on their own, searching for a monastery known as the Ebony Abbey. It's a place outsiders can never find, where the monks know more about the shadowblack than anyone else.

But there are dark truths waiting there for Kellen and when he finds himself separated from Reichis, he is forced to venture deeper into shadow magic than he ever knew he could.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Christmas is not a happy time for those in need in our community. Last year Stawell Inter Church Council Welfare distributed Christmas grocery shopping vouchers to 113 households made up of 357 individuals. New toys and books were given to 133 children 13 years old and under. You can help locals in need by leaving a donation of a new unwrapped toy or a new children's book under the Christmas giving tree in the school office.

Donations will be collected on Tuesday morning 18th December and distributed on Wednesday 18th December.



Great Victorian Bike Ride



The Great Victorian Bike Ride was an exciting adventure for the 14 students and 4 adults who took on this challenge. While preparations and training started many months ago, the excitement commenced on day 1, Friday 22 November. The team met at school at 9.30am, loaded our bikes and gear and headed to Robe to camp the first night. We arrived in Robe at around 2.30pm, set up our tents, checked our gear for the next day and went for a cycle into the town centre. Back to camp for dinner, a movie then into bed by 10 o'clock.

Day 2 was our first riding day. Up at 6 o'clock, packed up, breakfast and ready to go by 7.30. Today we headed to Millicent, 79km mostly flat riding with a tail wind. It was a great ride on our first day and we were in Millicent with our tents set up by mid-afternoon. A visit to the town, dinner, social interaction and off to bed by 9.30, all a bit tired.

Day 3 was a 77 kilometre ride to Mount Gambier. We started the ride together and broke into individual teams after the first break. This again was flat riding for most of the way. A stop for a swim in one of the famous small Blue lake water holes. Our camp site in Mount Gambier was a little out of town and many of us rode or got the shuttle bus into town after the ride. Another big day tomorrow so off to bed early.

Day 4 we rode to Portland; a mere 107 kilometre journey. We all rode in pairs or small groups and left as early as we could. It was a pretty flat ride but not many of us had been on our bikes for 107 kilometres. We all eventually arrived in Portland, tired and a little sore from the long ride. Our camp was on the edge of the ocean but a little cramped. With another big day ahead, most had dinner and headed to bed after a little socialisation. Rain and wind overnight.

Day 5 we rode to Port Fairy, 85 kilometres and excited that we passed the half way mark. Wet start to the day but eventually the sun came out. A few hills along the way. Again we started together and then broke into small groups to finish the ride into Port Fairy. As tomorrow was a rest day, we weren't ready for bed early and enjoyed the socialisation with the other schools.

Day 6 was a rest day. We slept in a bit and some headed into town for breakfast. Washing day and recharging our batteries, on both our phones and bodies. As lunch was not provided, we ate at various locations around Port Fairy and enjoyed our day swimming, socialising and visiting the local attractions. A few injuries to nurse along so into bed by 9.30pm.

Day 7, off to Peterborough hugging the coast for a 95 kilometre ride. A few more hills to negotiate but a very picturesque ride. A few injuries meant some had to jump on the bus and trailer. Finally, all back together at camp Peterborough, a little out of town. All starting to feel the effects of long days but eager for the big challenge tomorrow, Lavers Hill. The usual socialising, dinner then off to bed.

Day 8, the big hill climb day and an 81 kilometre ride to Beech Forest. All started enthusiastically with plenty of coastal sites to stop and see. On reaching our first stop some of us were feeling a little exhausted so a number took the bus and trailer option. Those who chose to ride on tackled Lavers Hill with enthusiasm and were rewarded after a 10 kilometre climb with a free downhill ride into Beech Forest. Camp site was in a cow paddock so avoiding the cow dropping was a difficult task. Quiet night after dinner and most in bed early.

Day 9 and off to Beech Forest – our shortest day with only 62 kilometres to ride. This was probably our best day and most picturesque with sunshine, a few climbs and downhill runs through the Otway's to Dean Marsh. Our last night meant celebrating with friends and reflecting on the past 8 days. Bit of bike damage meant that tomorrow may be a hard ride for some.

Day 10, up early, last time we had to pull the tent down. Left Beech Forest early for a short climb and then downhill into Lorne. Rain, rain and more rain made it a bit challenging. We were released from Lorne to make the final trip around the Great Ocean Road to Torquay. Unfortunately, bike damage, wet weather and fatigue meant a few had to bus it to the finish. The remainder of the team united outside Torquay and celebrated together as they crossed the line. It was great to see Marie and the parents at the end supporting the great effort of all the team.

We all had a great time training, riding and in our time at each camp site. We would like to thank all of you who brought our chocolates and raffle tickets and help us raise the funds to go. A big thanks to Mrs Macaffer, Gerard Mcaloon, Peter Wemyss and Mr. Hart for supporting the team and making the trip so much more enjoyable. Thanks also to David Morris and Jono Knight for their extra support.

Chloe, Kyle, Henry, Declan, Casey, Tanesha, Sophie, Sarah, Belladonna, Aaron, Damon, Vashti, Charlotte, Natalie, Sue, Murray, Marie and Parents



VYLC Shanghai Report

During our second last week in China, we did a lot of things.

Monday (25/11)

In the morning we had our normal Chinese classes then we had a class on cultural class on Chinese traditional music, we learnt about traditional music and listened to the music. Then after lunch, we learnt about the ABC's of Shanghai, which was basically Shanghai slang. Then we had a break till dinner then after dinner we watched Spider-Man into the spider verse.

Tuesday (26/11)

For the half of the day, we went to go into our buddies classes. Then we had lunch and after we had sports and then we had interactions with our buddies, where we got our PowerPoint ready for next weeks closing ceremony. Then we had dinner, then free time till bed.

Wednesday (27/11)

In the morning, we had our normal Chinese classes then we learnt about Kung Fu and Tai Chi, then lunch and after that we had a company visit, Shanghai Lei Yunshang, they make traditional Chinese herb medicine. Then after dinner we had self study.

Thursday (28/11)

After a class of our normal Chinese classes, we then had a lesson on Chinese food and table manners, where then we made wutons (a type of Chinese dumplings). Then after lunch we had sports. Then we had a tea party with our buddies, during the tea party, a couple of Chinese and Australian students gave a speech on Leadership and future career goals, Kiri wrote a speech on future career goals. Then we played musical chairs run by a Chinese student and Silent ball run by Miss Jones and I. Then we got pizza from Dominoes for tea and then we had self study.

Friday (29/11)

After our normal Chinese classes, we learnt a Chinese song, then after lunch we visited Yu garden and got to look around and spend our money for a couple of hours. Then we had dinner at a restaurant, after that we got on a ferry to take us on a ride on the mother river of Shanghai.

Saturday (30/11)

On Saturday, we had a test and then we had a lecture on online payments: WeChat and Alipay, which we learnt how China went from a coupon for money to paying for items on your phone. Then we had lunch and after that we went to Zhujiajiao, which was an old town that was built on water, but nowadays they have turned it into market. Some of us put our feet into water which was filled with fish and they eat our feet.

Sunday (1/12)

Today was the final time we got to spend the day with our buddies before leaving China.

2019 VYLC- Marcos Allen



Year 10 Team Building session

Last Friday, Mr Burdett and Mrs Lang hosted the Year 10 cohort for some team building and healthy competition games among peers. The students participated in a number of various activities which showed the groups working as a team and having fun! As the cohort will become part of the senior school in 2020 in the Senior Hub, it is important that they begin to create strong connections with each other to ensure that their final two years of school they can work collaboratively with their peers. Well done to everyone who was involved!

