

### **Principal's Report**

As the year is winding down, our school leadership is busy finalising the staffing needs for 2020. Next year we are planning to open up a new number of opportunities for our students.

The development of the Senior Hub (year 11 and 12 students) as well as the new Year 7 centre will ensure students are able to access staff and a wider range of resources and supports.

We are still also finalising the needs for our VET students next year in order to expand the opportunities which our students can access in 2020.

A reminder to all parents that we will be changing our bell times in 2020 as per our previous newsletter article.

We look forward to the implementation of our Year Level Coordinator initiative which will improve our student management processes. Our Teaching and Learning team members are also finalising the structures to support teachers and students engage with their education. This initiative was implemented as a result of the extensive feedback that students provided through our School Improvement action teams.

We welcome parent feedback to continue to improve our program in 2020. Thank you to parents who have given me, and the rest of our leadership team, feedback on the program. Parent and community assistance and input in the improvement of our program is always welcome.

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> December and distributed on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.



## **2020 School Bus Travel**

The School Bus Management System is now accepting travel applications for the 2020 school year. Existing families have been notified by the system about the need to submit their child's 2020 travel application.

### **Submitting 2020 travel applications**

Login to the School Bus Management System at <https://schoolbusapplication.ptv.vic.gov.au/> and complete one of the following actions.

Existing Travellers - Families with children who require continued travel (e.g. same residential address and same school) must *Renew Applications* for Term 1 2020, or

Existing Travellers - Families with children who have changed residential address and/or school, must create a *New Application* for Term 1 2020, or

New Travellers - Families with children who have never previously travelled on a school bus, must Add Traveller/Child, then create a *New Application* for Term 1 2020.

If family previously used the School Bus Management System, then login to the system using existing family account details.

However, families may need to *Register* and create a new account if no other siblings have previously travelled.

\*\*\* New accounts should only be created where families have not had access to the School Bus Management System \*\*\*

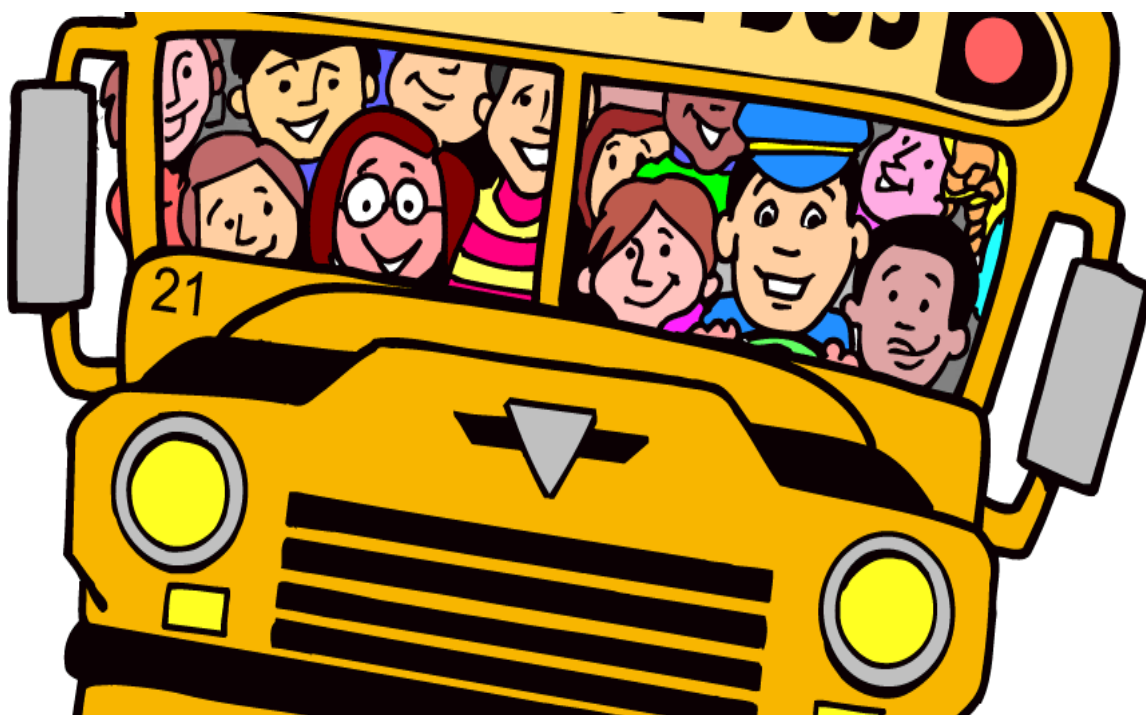
### **What is the timeline for 2020 applications**

Travel applications for 2020 must be submitted prior to 29 November 2019. Applications received after this date will be processed after the initial round of travel offers have been made.

Travel offers will be made to families early December 2019. Families will then have four weeks to manage their travel offer before it lapses.

### **Require Assistance?**

If families require assistance with system access or submitting travel applications, please call Public Transport Victoria on 1800 800 007 or Call Jo Blake on 03 53581700.



# VYLC Beijing Reflection

*By Jasmin Gibson*

大家好！ When we arrived in Beijing, we were all extremely tired from the long journey, but eager to have a look around. In Beijing we stayed at Beijing Language and Culture University, or BLCU for short. The university was massive, everything the students needed was on campus. There were normal things like dorms, classrooms, and a canteen. However they also had multiple shops, a post office, a hairdresser's, even a cinema! After the welcoming ceremony and a much needed rest, we took a test and jumped right into studying. Our day started off with breakfast at 7am, then the classes started at 8am. Our classes went for 3 hours with a few 10minute breaks in the middle. After class we have lunch and either do activities on campus or go sightseeing. Unless we went out to a restaurant, we had all our meals in the canteen. The canteen had 3 levels, the first two were different dishes every day and the third level had things like hotpot, dumplings and fried chicken. It was a little unnerving when eating on the first 2 levels as I didn't know what I was eating. On the first day I grabbed what looked good and ended up eating fungus (a type of mushroom), which was surprisingly delicious.

The on campus activities included opera mask painting, paper cutting, dragon dancing, martial arts, and Chinese acrobatics. My favourite activity was the dragon dancing because it was a lot of fun running around making the dragon dance and playing rhythms on the big drum. After an activity we would go to a lecture on many different topics such as ancient China, Chinese philosophy, Chinese pop culture, and modern technology/internet development in china. Many students thought that these sounded boring, but they ended up being extremely interesting. Especially the modern technology/internet development, which was my favourite lecture.

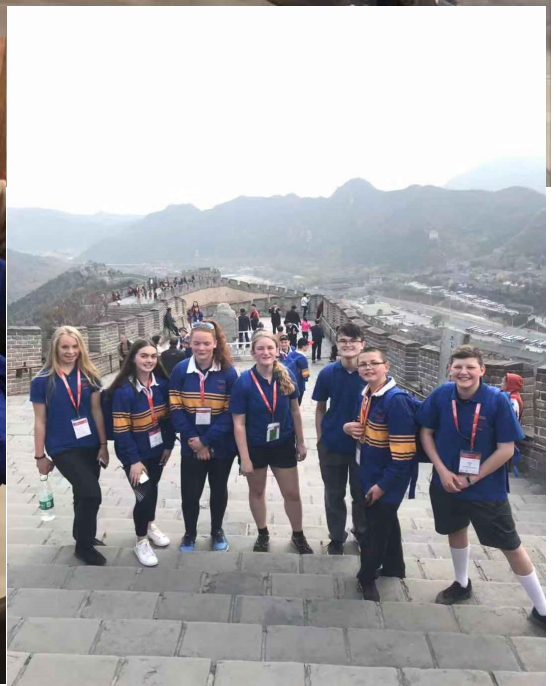
If we weren't doing activities on campus we would go on excursions to go sightseeing in Beijing. We went to many places including and The Forbidden City, The Temple of Heaven, The Great Wall, The Summer Palace, and many more. My favourite destination was the Great Wall because although the stairs were a big challenge, with some stairs being taller than my knee, at the top the effort was worth it and the view was amazing. Then after our afternoon activities we went back to class and did homework and revision on the content we learnt that morning.

After we had seen all the sights and done all the activities, it was time to say goodbye. We went to a restaurant and an acrobatic show as part of our farewell. The acrobatic show had everyone on the edge of their seats, it was spectacular. We were sad to say goodbye to our new friends in Beijing.

Although I'm sad to say goodbye, I'm eager to explore in Shanghai and meet more people.









## **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

21 November	Eventide Performance - Eventide Homes 120pm - 230pm
22 November	RACV Great Victorian Bike Ride
27 November	School Council meeting 7pm
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.
December	School Council Meeting

## **Book of the Week**

### **The Burning White**

**Author: Brent Weeks**

Gavin Guile, once the most powerful man the world had ever seen, has been laid low. Stripped of both magical and political power. Now he is imprisoned in his own magical dungeon, and the secret Order wants him dead. Now to protect the ones he loves, he is forced to travel across the sea to seek help from Orholam himself.

As the White Knight springs his great traps and the Chromeria itself is threatened by treason and siege, Kip Guile must gather his forces, rally his allies and scramble to return for one impossible final stand.

The fate of the world will come down to one question: Who is the Lightbringer?



## **CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE**

If you know of anyone who might need assistance this Christmas, could you please direct them to the Stawell Inter Church Council's Welfare Cottage at 20 Sloane St. Stawell? We are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.30-12.30. Requests for help this Christmas with grocery shopping vouchers and toys and books for children need to be made at the Cottage during the month of November.

## Great Victorian Bike Ride

Stawell Secondary College is very excited to announce that we will once again be entering a team of cyclists into the 2019 Great Victorian Bike ride.

The Ride is from Friday 22 November – Sunday 1 December 2019. The ride will commence in Robe, South Australia and travel through Millicent, Mount Gambier, Portland, Port Fairy, Peterborough, Beech Forest, Deans Marsh and finish in Torquay.

The RACV Great Victorian Bike Ride is a fun, friendly and challenging bike and camping adventure that will see the students and staff cycle over 652 kms in 10 days. This is a unique event with Bicycle Network, the organisers, taking care of food, campsites, medical and enroute support.

As the largest, fully supported bicycle event in the world, there is no better way for students to see Victoria and learn about themselves and their peers. The sense of achievement from completing the ride can lead to improved confidence, resilience and personal growth.

There are fourteen students who will be accompanied by Murray Hart, Sue Macaffer and Volunteer Gerard McAloon. We wish them all the best on their journey.

