SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

All state schools go through a school council election process in February – March. I strongly urge parents to be part of this important guiding process – either by nominating or certainly by voting.

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHY IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

NOTICE OF AN ELECTION

There are four vacancies in the parent member category and two vacancies in the Department employee category. If you would like to nominate for election, please contact the general office for a nomination form or contact me for more information.

Nominations will close on Thursday 23rd February at 4:00pm.

School captains – Making Stawell Secondary College a Better Place

The school captains have formed a school improvement team to listen to student suggestions for improving Stawell Secondary College – the first meeting of the team will be on 20th February in the conference room from 1:15 until 1:30. After each meeting, the school captains will meet with the principal group to discuss these suggestions.
In mid-November last year Riley, Elissa and Julia were lucky enough to fly over to Germany. We spent 5 weeks attending school, 2 weeks of holidays, 1 week in Berlin which was spent with the 67 other Australian exchanges, 2 weeks back at school and then we flew home late January. A total of 10 unforgettable weeks. This exchange, all three of us can say was the best thing we have ever participated in.

**Life in a typical German school**

Started around 8am and a usual day ended between 1pm and 5pm. It was pretty exciting because sometimes you could see the sun rise at school. This isn’t something you usually see. Julia rode to school on a bike and during January she rode through snow. Riley walked to school through the cold and wintery days. Elissa walked to the bus and waited in freezing weather for the bus, which she took to school. The student teacher relationships at our schools were different because, the teachers were more formal and stricter causing us to learn more. We found that the Germans were actually incredible at every subject they did and made even our Year 12’s look like Year 7’s.

**Holidays**

Yay it was finally Christmas time; the festive season was unusual to how we imagined it to be. Germany was surrounded by Christmas markets, they were literally everywhere!!! The closest ones to us were in the centre of Munich, Regensburg and Nurnberg. The Christmas markets created happy and festive vibes which was a great thing to witness and be a part of. Christmas was celebrated on the 25 December, but we received our presents on the evening of the 24 December.

**Berlin**

We took the 6-hour bus trip to Berlin. Berlin was a great trip to bond with other new Aussie mates that we might have not met before. In this trip we covered quite a bit of history such as, going to underground bunkers, concentration camp, museums and the Reichstag parliament building. In the afternoons we were able to do our own thing, this meant, getting on trains and getting lost. The trip was an amazing experience and especially after 6 weeks of speaking German it was quite a relief to speak Australian slang. We covered a lot of Berlin and was able to say we eventually knew our way around, we did some sight-seeing and saw some Brandenburg Tor, Chocolate Factory, Hitler’s bunker, Angela Merkels house and many other iconic sites.

After Berlin we had two weeks back at school, the trip came to a close on the 28 January, so many sad faces walked onto the plane. Although it was a sad goodbye all these fantastic memories will always be with us and I think that was pretty cool.

We’d like to thank all the teachers for their wonderful support before our trip, much appreciated by Elissa Jess, Riley Hackwill and Julia Clugston.
IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Wednesday 15 Feb  
Swimming Trails Yr. 7 P3&4

Thursday 23 Feb  
Swimming Sports

Thursday 23 Feb  
Music Camp—Mrs Hemley

Monday 27 Feb  
School Photos

Thursday 2 March  
Black Ranges Swimming

Tuesday 7 March  
VCE Physics Excursion—ABT

Thursday 9 March  
Yr. 11 Studio Arts Melbourne Excursion—MFS

Monday 13 March  
LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY

Tuesday 14 March  
Yr. 7 Hearing Test. P1&2 LMC

Thursday 16 March  
VCE Legal Class Regional Law Talks—Horsham

Friday 24 March  
Yr. 9 & 10 Jobs Expo, NGSC - CBI

Monday 27 March  
Yr. 12 Studio Arts Melbourne Excursion - MFS

Friday 31 March  
Last Day of Term 1 2017

Career News

Employment Opportunities

Automotive Apprenticeship
Light Vehicle – Full time
Horsham

Stawell IGA Supermarket
Casual Deli Assistant
After school and weekend shifts
Students to take their resume to Sandi (manager) personally
If students want assistance with resume preparation please see Cindy

Raynor's Mini Market
Casual Retail Assistants
After school shifts: 4-5.30pm, 2 nights per week
Students to personally speak to Brian or Ben

Year 10 Students

Work Experience week is the last week of Term 2: 26-30 June 2017
Work experience is compulsory for all Year 10 students
Each student is to find a placement and let Cindy know by 3rd March
Students were given work experience workbooks at the end of Year 9 last year

VCAL Students

All Year 11 & 12 VCAL students were given their work placement handbook in class last week
Students are to find a work placement every Friday that is linked to the VET Certificate they are enrolled in

VCE Students

VCE & Careers Expo 2017
Exhibitors include providers of VCE resources, universities, TAFE and training colleges plus 156 seminars on VCE subjects, tertiary courses, career, gap year and study advice
4-7 May 2017
vceandcareers.com.au

Subject changes – Semester 1 Deadline

Reminder to all Year 9-12 students
No more subject change requests will be approved after this Friday 17 February
Subject Change Request Form (signed by parent/guardian) to be received by Cindy by the above date at the latest

Science & Medicine Event

Year 9 & 10 students
To be held at Quantum Victoria – Specialist Science & Mathematics Centre
29 March 2017
Students will explore science professions, health & wellbeing
Only 50 places available
For further details or assistance with any of the above please see Cindy.
CSEF APPLICATIONS

CSEF forms are available in the front office. If you are a current healthcare card holder, please complete one of these forms. These forms need to be back by 24 February 2017.

Year 7 Uniform Pack...

In 2017 every year 7 government school student who was a recipient of CSEF in 2016 automatically qualifies to receive a uniform pack that is provided through State Schools’ Relief. If your child was a CSEF recipient in 2016 you can apply for a CSEF year 7 Uniform Pack by contacting Stawell Secondary College and completing the order form.

You can call the General Office for more info on 53581700.

Student Accident Insurance

Parents/Guardians are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the costs of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport cost.

Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers such as EBM. These insurers cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance. Information forms from EBM are included in today’s newsletter.

INTERNET BANKING

Thank you to the many families who are now making regular payments to the school via internet banking. If you made your first payment through Netbank on 4 February could you please call Marie McAloon on 5358 1700 as soon as possible.

If you would like to commence paying for your Essential Materials fee, Excursions & Camps and Laptop lease through this convenient method please do not hesitate to contact us.

The office staff require either a note or a phone call if you wish your child to leave the school grounds during school hours. They can not leave without one of these!

CSEF APPLICATIONS

CSEF forms are available in the front office. If you are a current healthcare card holder, Please complete one of these forms. These forms need to be back by 24 February 2017.

Breakie club is Back!!

Every Tuesday & Wednesday Mornings from 8am to 8.45am down in the Yr. 7 Hub Kitchen.

Thankyou to Waack’s Bakery for your ongoing support of the Stawell Secondary College Breakie Club.