

## Principal's Report

### Welcome back

I hope that everyone has had a restful break and that all students are ready to embark on this final term of learning for 2019. This term brings a number of important events that support our students learning as we head into the final stages of the year.

### Year 12 Practice exams

As you may be well aware our year 12 students have undertaken their practice examinations in preparation for their final exams (in just under 3 weeks). This is an important part of the process of receiving feedback from teachers in order to improve on their learning. Students are able to maximise their exam performance through their practice of important skills and being exposed to the demands of the pressure that exam conditions tend to exert on students. We would like to reinforce our support for what is a difficult time for our students undertaking the final phase of their year 12 subjects.

### Child safe

A reminder to all parents that Stawell Secondary College is a **child safe** school. The Federal Government is ensuring our compliance with these regulations as we have been reviewing our policies in order to ensure all of our student are safe and feel safe at school. We would like to re-iterate our commitment to all parents and welcome any feedback from parents about any safety issues.

### School Data

At the end of last term, we received a number of important pieces of data that give staff and leadership a gauge of our school's performance as it pertains to student outcomes and feedback from staff, students and parents. I would like to highlight these over the next few newsletters.

### NAPLAN

While there is a number of opportunities to improve our comparative state and national standard, this year Stawell Secondary College has had a measure of success in a number of areas.

NAPLAN growth is often divided into three sections; Low-growth, medium-growth and high-growth. Individual student achievement at year 9 is compared to their achievement in year 7, this establishes how much they have grown academically over this two-year period. We have had a substantial increase in high and medium growth over this period in the areas of Reading and Numeracy. This indicates that students have shown higher than the equivalent for two years over this period, a great result for our students. I would like to acknowledge their hard work and also congratulate our teachers who have guided these students in their learning over this period of time.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

|               |                                                       |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 07-11 October | Year 12 VCE Trial Exam week.                          |
| 15-16 October | Road to Zero Regional in school program               |
| 17 October    | Budja Budja Medical Van School Visit 9:30am till 3pm. |
| 17 October    | Party Program Hospital Visit 9am till 1pm.            |
| 17 October    | Budja Budja Medical Van Visit 9.30am till 3.30pm      |
| 21 October    | Minyip Field and Game School shoot 8.30am till 4pm    |
| 22-23 October | Year 12 School Sleepover                              |
| 30 October    | School Council 7pm                                    |



## Book of the Week

### The Explorer

Author: Katherine Rundell

From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him. He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of making history and of reading his name amongst the lists of great discoveries. If only he could land and look about him.

As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small.

Except, it seems, someone has been there before them....

### Year 12 Graduation Dinner

The Year 12 Graduation Dinner tickets are now available for purchase from the front office until Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Each year 12 student is able to invite two guests, and tickets are \$40 per person. Please contact Casey Gray (VCE Coordinator) for further information.

### Year 12 Jackets 2020 – Extended Deadline!

In preparation for Year 12, the Year 11 students have recently voted for their preferred Year 12 jacket design. A letter was sent home with students at the end of Term 3. The jackets will cost \$110 and this needs to be paid to the front office by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November**. Students will be notified when sample sizes arrive to try on. Please contact Casey Gray (VCE Coordinator) with any questions.

## Continued China Trip Journal

### Yancheng Day 3

Excursion: We went to the David deer park, fed the deer and watched them in their natural habitat. The deer were very interesting and interacted willingly. They could sometimes be intrusive and aggressive but were mostly friendly! They were very interesting animals to watch in their habitat which was environmentally friendly, sustainable, clean and was mostly natural. The park was picturesque and immaculately structured. The yellow sea/wet land was picturesque and was scenic in a sensational, tingles your senses, eye pleasing way.

We went to the wet land/yellow sea and had a look at the moist sand which had gorgeous patterns, boulders that kept the immense tide in when it occurred every day as they were shaped very particularly and precisely. We sat and just viewed the practical, natural and man-made scenery. We had a look at the sea from a distance and stranded boats. When the tide came in, the boats would be driven in to the sea by the tidal wave and would return and could only arrive back on land by the wave back to the shore. Someone handed us a bottle of crabs, so a group of people got to go down to the water and were allowed to release them. Because of this, we took photos, watched the patterns the crabs made when they swam and walked on land. We also watched the speed in which they swam, in which may I say was very rapid, and enjoyed being in the moment and admired everything around us.

Saturday was our last day with our homestay. We got to spend the whole day with the families. I spent my day with my friend Wendy and Jade. I loved the day we had. We started off with meeting up at Jade's homestay house, however Jade's buddy Sylvia had school the whole day so we were going to meet up with her at 6:00 pm for dinner. Next we went to a sports center that had a huge basketball area, however we went straight past that to the badminton courts. After having a few go's I got the hang of serving back but couldn't hit, but Jade could hit but couldn't serve so we made a good team. We spent the majority of the time at the basketball courts, we loved having the whole court to ourselves and being able to do whatever we wanted.

The best part was the trampoline park, there was this huge slide. We slid down it on a doughnut and at the bottom was a dip that made your stomach do flip flops before you landed in an area with foam all around. After that we did some shopping. For lunch we had these amazing crepes that were filled with ice cream and chocolate. After lunch we rode on toy motorbikes. It was a lot of fun especially when Jade ran out of time and was stranded in the middle of the mall floor. We did some more shopping and then it was time to have tea. Jade's buddy Sylvia met up with us at the 5 star restaurant, it was amazing being able to cook your own food in a hot pot and watch a guy pull noodles with his own hands, Jade and I gave him a nickname 'Noodle Guy.' I made the mistake of thinking ducks blood was a block of chocolate but the homestay families assured me that it was truly ducks blood.

In the morning we had to say goodbye to our homestay buddy, it was special for me because my buddy that came to Australia was there to say goodbye as we left for Shanghai. The trip was supposed to take 4 hours however because of a truck accident it took 8 hours. Halfway there we stopped for about 1 hour for food and a toilet stop. On the road Jade saw a truck full of pigs and immediately she knew where they were going. As we were coming past them Jade got the whole bus to give the truck drivers a mean look. However after a little while we lost them, but coming up behind us was another pig truck and Jade was then awarded the 'Save the Pigs' award.





## Continued China Trip Journal

Tuesday the 17th Day 6

7:30 was breakfast and at 9 am we jumped on the bus and were off to see the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Mausoleum. We were all excited to see what was inside. But stairs stood before us disappointingly. A huge stone tablet stood, and the tour guide explained, there were no words on the back as to symbolise how there were no words to describe Dr. Sun Yat Sen's amazing change. We all stumbled to the top of the stairs and walked inside to see a beautiful statue. Just after the statue, lied the lovely coffin of the man himself. Well actually his coffin is buried deep below the stone in copper, but it still marks where he was. As we walked back down the steps we spotted ice cream and enjoyed it on the way back. Next we enjoyed a nice lunch before heading to the hotel to get ready for the Welcoming Ceremony. As we piled into the hall, rows of tables covered in velvet cloth, clipboards and pencils. Around 232 students from VIC and QLD were there and almost 60 teachers. The ceremony started with 5 people who played important roles to our trip gave speeches. They explained their excitement for our arrival. Then two lovely performances played including: A musical performance with traditional instruments, and then a dance performance about spring. After, there was plenty of time for dinner. Our group had time to go to two different floors where we shopped for two hours. We had a lovely dinner and walked back to the hotel. We all enjoyed the day and were very tired and needed a good rest.

By Abbey Jonson & Ava Duxon

Wednesday the 18th, day 7

After a lovely time in Nanjing, we had to travel to Yancheng for the next step in our journey. When we arrived after about four hours, all of the students were amazed at the sheer size of Yancheng Middle School. All up (over the four campuses), there were over 20,000 students. We received our Yancheng Middle School uniforms and talked to some other students before we reflected on our trip so far and wrote in our China Diaries. At around 2:30 we met with our homestay buddies and got to know them over about half an hour, then we had a tour of the Yancheng Middle School museum. As it turns out, the school has more than 95 years of history. When the school day ended everyone met up with their buddies and homestay families, getting photos taken by Miss Ling before departing for homestay. Everyone seemed to feel uneasy or even a little homesick on the first night of homestay; but I'm happy to say that it looks like everyone ended up loving homestay, some students (including myself) even wishing we had more time with our homestay families.

-Millee C

On the first day in Yancheng, we did calligraphy, which is drawing with ink and papercutting. Calligraphy is using a special brush to draw a picture in ink, we started with learning how to draw the grass, and then went into the flowers, and then after we had mastered that we got to do our own masterpiece. The teacher that taught us was the best at it and multiple students got him to draw a picture for us to take home. The papercutting was a difficulty for many students, we did three pictures and nearly all of them turned out well, a couple of the pictures got a bit ripped but all in all it was a great day. After our first day of activities we got to meet our homestay students we were all so excited and when we walked in and saw them all standing there the nerves started to kick in. After I had met my homestay student, Wendy, we went back to our classroom and waited until the end of the day bell went. My homestay family was so helpful and I felt like I fitted in so well. On our full last day in Yancheng, we learnt Kung Fu; there were multiple dances that we learnt. After that, we did Chinese writing in ink and learnt about the history on the campus, there are 4 campuses and each campus had around 4,000 students, we went to the North Campus and met up with some students who took us through their museum and took us around the school. I loved my experience with my homestay and hope that I can keep in touch with her.

By Georgie Stewart





Wednesday October 16th 7:30pm  
Stawell Secondary College Hall



# Spring Concert

Tickets \$8 Children under 13 free  
All funds raised go towards equipment purchase and repairs

