

Volume 34 Number 2

23/2/2024

Principal's Communication 23 February 2024

We have made a great start to the 2024 year with our strong classroom learning focus supported by several events that have enhanced our positive school culture. Unfortunately, the devastation of the Pomonal and Dadswell Bridge fires have affected us all and we send our empathy and support to all families and friends that have been directly affected by the fires. We are a resilient community, and we will work together to support and help our families and friends rebuild their lives. Our college has joined with the other schools in the area to help raise money to support those in need. The money raised from our swimming carnival BBQ, casual dress day and zooper dooper sale this week will go towards this appeal. We thank our families, students, and staff for supporting the appeal.

As noted above, we have had a number of exciting events that have embraced our school values and helped launch our School Wide Positive Behaviours. Our values celebration afternoon last Friday was a great day that emphasised the importance of Participation, Aspiration, Inspiration, Resilience, and Respect. With both staff and students dressing up for the BBQ and activities, the atmosphere was exciting and enjoyable. The colour fun run topped off a great afternoon with Black Range emerging as the winning house.

On Monday we held a whole school assembly to acknowledge our student leaders and celebrate student achievement. Our special guests for the assembly were Mrs Emily Dalkin, School Council President, Mr Andrew McGuckian, CEO YouthDrive Victoria, Mr Peter Tilley representing the Tilley family, and Andrew and Sue Cunningham. Andrew McGuckian outlined the prestigious Chris and Marley Tilley award and the support and encouragement it provides our 2023 graduates to further their education beyond Year 12. With the help of Peter Tilley, Andrew announced the 2023 winners who were Xander Gragasian and Jake Pridan.

Our school leaders for 2024 are:

School Captains - Kayla Membrey & Lewis Reading

House Leaders - *Black Range*: Hollie Walker & Seth Manns; *Mackenzie*: Makala Basset & Willem Artz; *Lonsdale*: D'Artagnan Walls, Sasha Woltjen & Gabriel Stanes

Year 9 Ambassadors - Archie Hoffmann, Scott Tulloch, Evie Repper, Kayan Barnes, Declan Seaman, Emily Grant, Earl Pestijo, William Walker, Max Croft, Ador Kongor, Jett Manns, Claire Scott, Lily Moorfoot

Bus captains - *Navarre* - Angel Boothroyd + Kirby Bibby; *Landsborough* - Kyle Bearham + Sasha Woltjen; *Marnoo East* - Lilly Reading + William Hodder; *Marnoo West* - Thomas Jess; *Roses Gap* - Riley Bowen + Matilda Bowen; *Halls Gap* - Willem Artz + Kelanee Lovett; *Pomonal* - Brenton Pavey; *Great Western* - Sebastian Barry + Makala Basset.

Student leadership Team - Jai Anderson, Alyza Robinson, Jason Arreza, Brighty Etherton, Riley Hope, Edward Bibby, William Evans, Shayla Madin, Declan Seaman, Kayan Barnes, Amahli Sheen, Addison Hutchins, Cheyenne Digney, Sienna Santuccion, Gwen Elliot, D'Artagnan Walls, Hollie Walker, Kayla Membrey, Lewis Reading.

We also acknowledge student success in our Chinese program which is outlined in this edition of Connections. For photos of our student leader's presentation please access the parent google drive via this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19Bq1rO2AWcTWAaHGwANTJmASZTM6WU3H?usp=sharing> (This link will also be provided in the XUNO parent and student portal)

There has been over two months of no action from the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) in relation to our \$12 million building program. You may recall that the original and revamped plans were outpriced by the tenders and negotiations failed to reach a solution to enable works to commence. The last word was that the new plans were to go to tender but at this stage I haven't received any further feedback.

I take this opportunity to mention our school uniform. Our School Council President mentioned at the assembly how pleased the School Council was with the way the students and families have embraced the new uniform. The new polo top is being worn by almost all students and plain black shoes have allowed parents to have a broader variety of shoes to accommodate the uniform guidelines. Families are reminded the School Council requires all students to wear the designated uniform, including plain black shoes. We will be following up on uniform matters and assisting students and families to ensure all students are in uniform.

Murray Hart
Principal

LONSDALE WINS

Stawell Secondary College's child safety and wellbeing policies and practices can be found on our school website: www.stawellsc.vic.edu.au. We welcome comments and feedback on these from our school community at any time. Feedback can be made to Murray Hart on 5358 1700.

RESPECT
INCLUSION
ASPIRATION
RESILIENCE
PARTICIPATION



Swimming Sports LONSDALE WINS!!

WE DID IT! Well done on another successful House Swimming Carnival.

Despite the challenges we faced last week and the heat of the day, we are pleased to report that, we powered through all our events. Some of the admirable qualities we witnessed today was the immense engagement and involvement of our students. It was truly amazing to see how they embodied one of our core school values, of participation. This value was clearly the focus of our victors of the day Lonsdale House!

Lonsdale House just managed to take the win over Black Ranges who was also closely followed by Mackenzie. It was truly neck and neck towards the end of the day. Well done to all three Houses, their Leaders, Captains, and participants for their efforts.

Despite the heat and the changing circumstances, our students remained committed to making the most of their experience, demonstrating dedication (some painting themselves from head to toe) and enthusiasm throughout the day. We would also like to acknowledge the resilience displayed by our students, teachers, and other staff members. With last-minute changes in the schedule and the need for flexibility, our school community came together to adapt and ensure a smooth day for all. The ability to bounce back from the cancelation and uncertainty of the past week and remain focused during these challenging times truly showcases the strength of a second core value, resilience. We are immensely proud of our students for their perseverance and positive attitude. Their commitment to this day and their unwavering spirit are a testament to the values we aim to instil in them every day. We would also like to express our gratitude to our dedicated teachers and staff members for their hard work in providing a safe and enjoyable environment for our students, especially during this severe weather.

I would also like to highlight our VM students who took this event as an opportunity to use their annual fundraiser for their program to raise over \$800 for those affected by the Pomonal Fires last week. It was an incredible effort by them all.

Lastly, a big thank you to all the parents and guardians for supporting and cheering on our students during the House Swimming Carnival. Your encouragement and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated and play a significant role in creating a supportive and inclusive school community. It was great to see not just parents/guardians but even some ex-students at the event, Stawell Secondary College is truly a community for life.

Our Age-Group Champions will be announced at a later date, and we look forward to our students representing the school at the Black Ranges Zone Division Swimming on Monday.

Emma Dumaresq
Sports Coordinator.



Reminders

ACU Uni Step Up Program

The 2024 ACU Uni Step-Up Online program is about to begin, and the enrolment period is still open and available to **all Year 11 students in regional/remote areas**. Your school has had previous students participate in the Step-Up program and can provide a valuable insight for future students who may also wish to follow the same pathway.

Uni Step-Up Online is a free online program that gives student the opportunity to study First-Year Units **outside of regular school hours** and if successful, gain two University credits (applicable to other Universities) and an **unconditional offer** to an aligned ACU course. This program is ideal for students interested in **Health, Business or Exercise Science** fields and would like to take a first step towards achieving their career goals. The enrolment period closes on 22nd of February 2024, with the first Unit classes aiming to start in mid-March.

Employment Opportunities

Lyal Eales Store - Stawell

113 Main Street. Casual Junior Retail Assistant. After School 2-3 days a week. Occasional weekend work when required. Weekdays Hours: 4:00pm to 5:30pm Saturdays Hours: 9:00am to 2:00pm Sundays: 10:00am to 2:00pm. Employer prefers students to drop in a resume or an introduction letter if interested. See Cindy if you would like help with this

Rayner's Mini Market –

Highway Stawell - near Mitre 10. A couple of shifts per week 4:00pm -5.30pm. Duties - Packing loads away, cleaning etc. No resume required - just go down to shop and ask to see Ben or Brian. Let Cindy know if you want my help with anything.

YEAR 9 – MY CAREER INSIGHTS PROGRAM – MORRISBY CAREERS

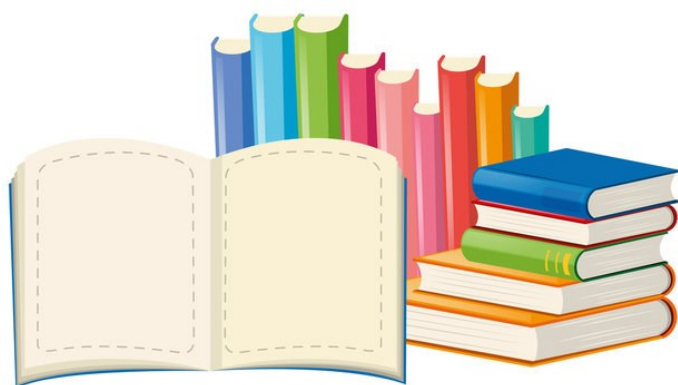
Thursday 29th February, 2024

My Career Insights is a program for all Year 9 students in government secondary schools. This program will help your Year 9 child to:

- Learn about what skills and abilities they could bring to a job.
 - Find out about what jobs match their abilities, interests and personality, and the subjects they need for those jobs.
- As part of the program, your child will:
- Complete a series of online questions and quizzes (on the Morrisby Profile website) at school.
 - Receive a Morrisby Profile Report showing the results from the questions and quizzes, and possible jobs that match their abilities, interests and personality.

Have a 30-minute meeting with a Morrisby-trained Career Practitioner, who will explain the report to your child.

A consent form for this program will be XUNO messaged to all parents/carers shortly



DO YOU HAVE ANY UNWANTED STUDENT TEXTBOOKS OR LEFT-OVER STUDENT STATIONARY?

If you have any student supplies or current textbooks at your home and you have no further need for them, we would be extremely happy to put the products to great use.

Please send the supplies to the school office at any time and we will ensure that the materials are put to use. Thank you in anticipation for your assistance.

Chinese Report

This year, Chinese New Year celebrations started on 10th February and will finish on 24th February (Lantern Festival). As a tradition, younger generations receive a hong bao 红包 from their parents and relatives as a New Year gift. Families in the northern part of China make dumplings, as the dumplings resemble a gold nugget 元宝, so making and eating them symbolizes 'good luck' and 'good fortune' for the entire year!

To be able to fully embrace the language and culture, Chinese language students had the opportunity to make hong bao in class with a lucky token in it. We also made a Chinese New Year card and wrote to our Chinese pen-pals to wish them Xin Nian Kuai Le (Happy New Year!). Our favourite activity without a doubt is making Jiaozi (dumplings)!

Dumpling Rating: 1,000,000,000,000,000/5 stars and 1,000,000% amazing!! Xie xie!!! - Henry 8B

jiǎo zi shì wǒ zuì xǐ huan de shí wù wǒ zhēn de hěn xǐ huan tā men
饺子是我最喜欢的食物。我真的很喜欢他们! - Charli 8B

They are very nice. Can we make some more? I would like to get the recipe please. - Liam 8B

Very good dumplings, cooked to perfect crunch and tasted delicious! - Cody 8B

Xie xie Ms Ling, the dumplings were awesome and I especially loved the crispy outsides! - Ruby 8B

The Jiaozi (dumpling) we made on Monday were absolutely delicious! Ms Ling and Chloe did an amazing job and if they ever open a dumpling restaurant, I will be their number 1 customer! Great job! - Lexi 8B

Making dumplings this morning was a very fun cultural activity to experience as a class. It was a simple process that ended with delicious dumplings for everyone! They were very good, thank you. - Liv 8B

Making dumplings was amazing!!! I loved them so much! They were really yummy!! Xie xie! Scarlett - 8B

The dumplings were exceptional, and I really enjoyed them. I would highly advise people to come to Ms Ling's restaurant, also the chef was amazing! - Satria 8A

I really liked the dumplings; they were crunchy and yummy. The soy sauce made it even better!! I enjoyed making them too. :) - Harper 8A

The food Ms Ling provided was splendid! I enjoyed the experience of cooking and I wish to do it again some time. Xie xie Ms Ling! - Caleb 8A



Chinese Report

Year 10 made dumplings from scratch! It was challenging to knead the dough and make the round-shaped jiaozi (dumpling covers). I would say if we ever opened a dumpling restaurant, we would need a lot more practice!



Chinese Pen-pal Letter – Chinese New Year Cards: Wish our Chinese friends a happy New Year and prosperity in the Year of the Dragon! The students in China will receive our cards next week!



Lastly, four Year 9 students Lacey, Earl, Scott and Kayan went to Great Western Primary School and helped with the Chinese New Year Celebrations! They were great Chinese language and culture ambassadors and fully demonstrated our school values and strong leadership skills!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024

What is it?

The team consists of students from year 7 through to 12 who have self-nominated. The team provides our student voice in supporting the school with ideas, feedback and decision making that are important to the students.

What does it involve?

Regular meetings happen where we discuss what is important to the students at school.

Who can be a part of the team?

Any student can if they want to contribute to the voice of the school.

We had to run two votes for both the Year 7 and 10 candidates due to high interest. Everyone else automatically became a part of the team when they self-nominated. Some students even re-nominated from 2023. There were 27 students interested in year 7 which is truly amazing! Well done to everyone who put their hand up.

The team for 2024 is:

Jai Anderson
Alyza Robinson
Jason Arreza
Brighty Etherton
Riley Hope
Edward Bibby
William Evans
Shayla Madin
Declan Seaman
Kayan Barnes

Amahli Sheen
Addison Hutchins
Cheyenne Digney
Sienna Santuccione
Gwen Elliot
D'Art Walls
Hollie Walker
Kayla Membrey (school captain)
Lewis Reading (school captain)

I look forward to working with the team in 2024.
Mrs Prior

Easter Library Competition

Guess the number of Easter Eggs in the jar.

The jar of Easter Eggs, and entry forms will be in the library and the winner will be the student who is first to guess the correct number of eggs. If no one guesses the correct number, the winner will be the students who has the closest guess.

1st Prize: The jar of Easter Eggs.

Entry is free to all students.

Students may submit up to 2 entries per day.

Entry forms must be filled in correctly to be eligible to enter.

Competition begins: Friday 1st March and ends on Thursday 21st March. The winner will be contacted by Xuno message and the result will be announced in the news to be read out during home group on Monday 25th March.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursion encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. Cards must be valid with Centrelink as of 19 January 2024. Students can be aged from 6 – 18 years old. If a student is the holder of a Youth Allowance type card in their own name that is valid, the parents are eligible to apply for the CSEF.

The annual amount per student will be \$250 for every secondary school student of eligible families. Payments will be made into the applicant's school account to use towards a child's expenses relating to camps, excursion or sporting activities.

REMINDER: ALL APPLICANTS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE SCHOOL WITH A COPY OF THEIR CURRENT HEALTH CARE CARD.

How to apply: Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. A copy of your Centrelink Concession Card will be taken when you return the completed form to school. Applications need to be made by Friday 22 March 2024, however the sooner you apply the sooner you will receive the funds into your account.

If you have any questions please contact Marie McAloon, Business Manager.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2024

A conveyance allowance may be paid to parents who drive their children more than 4.8km to the nearest pick up point of a free country bus service or their nearest school, where no bus service is available.

Families who currently claim a conveyance allowance with Stawell Secondary College DO need to lodge a new application.

Students who are attending Stawell Secondary College for the first time must meet the following guidelines. To be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance students must be:

1. Attending their nearest Government school.
2. Living further than 4.8km from either the school or the nearest pick up point of a free country bus.

Please contact the school office for an application form.

All eligible families must complete and **return the form to the school by 29 February 2024.**

If you require further information in regards to this please contact Mrs Marie McAloon at the College.

YEAR 7 UNIFORM PACK (If you haven't already applied)

In 2024 every Year 7 government school student who was a recipient of CSEF in 2023 automatically qualifies to receive a uniform pack that is provided through State Schools' Relief. If your child was a CSEF recipient in 2023 and you are yet to apply for the package, 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 information on 5358 1700.

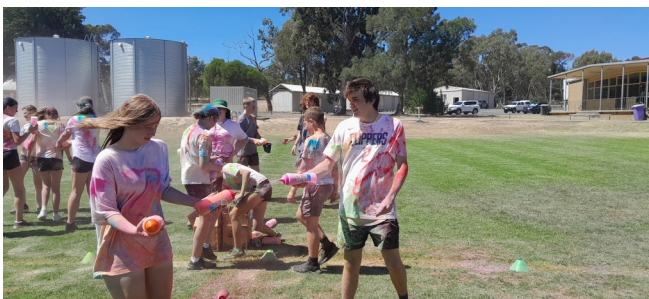
Celebration Day



Over the course of 2023 the Stawell Secondary College community inclusive of both staff and students worked together to embed our School Values. Last Friday marked the school's celebration of the rollout and implementation of these values alongside our School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support Framework. The day involved a variety of value-based activities collaboratively designed by our homegroups. Please read some of the student recounts of Celebration Day!

Celebration day was an exceptional way to celebrate our school values. I had an awesome time and so much fun. My favourite part about the day was the colour run as we got to run around the oval and into millions of bright colours. After I ran through, I went back into the colour pit asking all our wonderful staff to put more colour on me and in my hair. At the end of the day, I had many different colours all over my clothes and all through my hair. I loved celebration day so much and I'm sure every else did.

- Brighty Etherton



Celebration Day was exciting for all of us. When the colour run started everyone ran as fast as they could and some of the students couldn't because they were so many people. After the run, everyone was covered with colour powder, and some of the students grabbed bottles of the powder and they covered themselves with it.

- Jason Arreza



Celebration Day



Celebration Day has been so far; one of my favorite events of my high school education. It was great to see the amount of effort put into all the activities by each home group. The colour run was easily my favourite though. Many people were entering through those streams of colour countless times on end and most of their shirt and even BODIES were drenched in powder paint. There was a lot of laughter by the end of it and I'm sure that it was a nightmare to clean out of everything.

- William Evans



Last Friday our school came together as one to celebrate the launching of our new school values. To start off the celebration we had a delicious free sausage sizzle and drink station. After lunch we played all sorts of games and challenges to see what house could beat the rest, it was a great afternoon full of fun exercise and teamwork. But that wasn't the best part, just before the day ended the school lined up ready to go through the tricky gym obstacle course then around the oval and into the coloured chalk which the teachers seemed to be enjoying throwing on us a bit too much. To finish off the day we took loads of group photos and talked as a group.

- Eva Hurley



Friday was a lot of fun for me! From running around the oval, completing fun activities (Including guessing the amount of paint brushes in a tub, Simon Says and passing a biscuit from the top of the head to the mouth) and doing a colour fun run (it was very colourful!) I'd have to say that this is one of the best house activities the school has ever done!

- Kayan Barnes

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2023

26/2/24—Black Range Swimming
25/2/24-26/2/24—Music Camp
4/3/24—House Athletic Carnival
16/3/24—Presentation Ball
28/3/24—Last Day Term 1
15/4/24—First Day Term 2



Do you or someone that you know need some help?

If you need help with groceries and shopping vouchers go to -
The Cottage [20 Sloane St Stawell](#). Open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 10:30am and 12:30pm.
In out of hours emergencies ring 0408 038 949.

If you need help with fresh fruit and vegetables go to -
Stawell Neighborhood House [42 Sloane St](#). Open Mondays – Fridays 9am -5pm.

If you need help *other* than groceries and food, contact –
Stawell St Vincent de Paul Society – 0437 344 324 and leave a message. They will contact you within 24 hours.

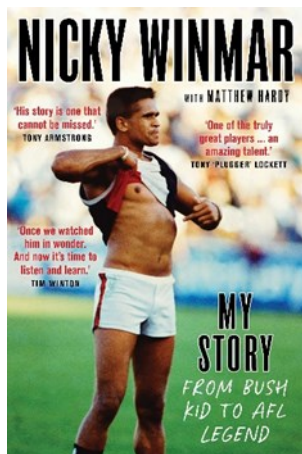
Acknowledgement of Country

Stawell Secondary College is located in the lands of the Djab Wurrung and Jardwadjali people and we acknowledge the land which we learn, work and live.

We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community and pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our College Community.

Book of the Week

My Story: From Bush Kid To AFL Legend
Author: Nicky Winmar & Matthew Hardy



Sport is made up of moments that thrill us at the time and quickly disappear. Very few endure for decades. Even fewer transcend sport and speak to an entire nation.

April 17, 2023, marked the 30th anniversary of St Kilda legend Nicky Winmar's proud and defining stand against racism – one of those moments that hasn't diminished over time and regrettably is just as relevant today.

It is a stand that has become iconic, and so has Winmar, not just for his courage as he declared to a hostile, jeering crowd, 'I'm black and I'm proud to be black,' but also because he was one of the game's most talented and celebrated players.

This long-awaited autobiography tells the story of Winmar's brilliant career in colourful detail, as well as giving moving insight into his life. Amid the pain, the turbulence and the triumph, his heart and abiding sense of humour shine through..