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Principal's Communication 1 December 2023

This week I have been off site with the Great Victorian Bike Ride team. In my absence Courtney McIlvride has been Acting Principal. Zoe Jones has relocated to the Junior Hub to support the Junior School and Robyn Williams has provided Administration support.

The Year 7 – 11 2023 Presentation Afternoon last Friday has received extremely positive feedback from parents, students, and teachers. It was great to see so many parents attend and acknowledge the achievements of our students. Approximately 150 students were recognised for their outstanding achievements over 2023. The Presentation was enriched by the presence of former student, Dr Nic Pridan. Nic shared his educational aspirations from primary school to his final year of graduating as a doctor. It was also exciting to hear from Kayan Barnes who shared his amazing journey that culminated in competing in the National Final of the Legacy Public Speaking Competition in Adelaide.

Recent correspondence from the Victorian School Building Authority suggest that we may be closer to determining a tender and start time for our \$13 million building program. At this stage the VSBA Project Manager and CO-OP Studio Architects are hoping, but not too optimistic that we may know more before Christmas. They suggest we may see a start onsite early in February.

Parents and students are alerted to the important DET notification that our school is listed on the **BARR**. (Bushfire At-Risk Register). This means that our school is in an area that is most at risk of bushfire. When listed on the BARR, the school:

- is categorised based on its bushfire risk.
- must meet requirements for bushfire preparedness in the VRQA Guidelines
- may be required, based on its BARR category, to enact their pre-emptive action plan (being either their pre-emptive relocation, learning from home, or closure plan) on High or Extreme FDR days in their local government area (LGA)
- must close on days forecasted by the Bureau of Meteorology as Catastrophic FDR in their fire weather district and cancel any bus routes.

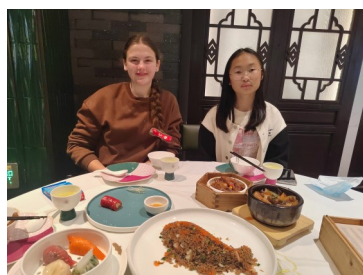
receives bushfire-specific compliance advice for their Shelter-in-Place building.

Please be reassured that our school is compliant with all the DET requirements, and the school community will be well informed should the need arise to specific actions to be required for the safety of our community.

The end of the year is fast approaching. Last week we farewelled our Year 11 students for 2023 and they commenced their summer break with subject tasks in preparation for Year 12 in 2024. This week the Year 10 students have moved down to the senior hub and experienced life as a Year 11. They too will commence their summer break at the end of this week. The remaining Year 7 to 9 students will continue their Learning journey with a mix of preparation for 2024 including relocating to new areas and lockers and undertaking classroom work to prepare them for next year. A reminder to all Year 7 to 9 students and parents that attendance at school is compulsory up to and including the 15th December 2023. The 18th and 19th of December are days for Parent/Student/Staff meeting at the request of parents with the 20th December a preparation day for 2024.

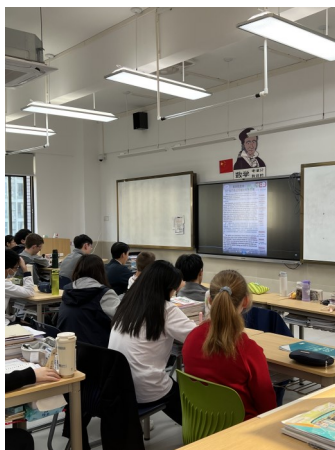
Murray Hart
Principal

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.



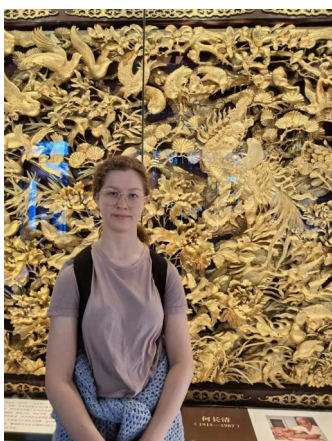
China Trip 2023





From 10th November to 1st December, five Stawell Secondary College students have been invited to go to China to participate in a speech conference organised by GoodTalk (Global Village) Committee through CLTAV (Chinese Language Teachers Association of Victoria).

Our five participants have had a wonderful experience during the first week. They explored China in so many dimensions and fully embraced their culture. Their highlights (according to Ms Ling's assumptions based on their daily reflections) were the food, spending time with their home-stay buddy and a wide range of different cultural activities. Many thanks to Ms Ma who is doing a marvellous job looking after our students. Please follow our school Facebook page for more stories daily!



Year 12 Psychology 2024



Have you ever not known what to do in class? This is likely because you weren't paying attention to the instructions – and your mind was elsewhere!

According to the theory of observational learning, there are five important steps in learning and memory. These are:
ATTENTION, RETENTION, REPRODUCTION, MOTIVATION, and REINFORCEMENT.

This acronym helps us remember - ARRMR 'armour'.

2024 Year 12s recently had a STICKY start to their course, 'contacting' their logbooks, reproducing the technique after watching (paying attention to and retaining) a demonstration.

Despite some frustration, students were motivated to reproduce this action and persist. But as anyone who has ever put contact on books knows, it's incredibly hard to eliminate air bubbles and lines.

However, this group did well despite no or little prior experience. Good job, class of 2024! (Positive reinforcement)

The class also enjoyed learning about their amazing brains by having a peer trace their head onto a poster! Students then drew the shape of the main brain parts - in the correct location and labelled them with names and functions.

Mrs. Brooks



Year 10 Deakin University visit

Last Wednesday Deakin University visited us to run workshops to our Year 10 student around busting myths about going to University.

Students were then split into workshop groups of their choice – either Science/Marine Biology, Creative Writing or Health Occupational Therapy.

Students asked a lot of questions to help alleviate fears about university after Year 12.



My trip to the Legacy Public Speaking National Finals

By Kayan Barnes

SATURDAY:

It all began at the ridiculous time of 6:30am. Waking up was difficult yet possible, and within an hour we were on the road. Driving, shuttle bus, then the plane to Adelaide. By 2pm we made it to the hotel, and let me just say, I was living the luxury! 5 star beauty all around.

Legatee Allan was our chaperone for the trip, and Legacy actually paid for my trip to Adelaide which was awesome!

After we got settled, we explored Adelaide's Rundle Mall, and we found some glass elevators. Obviously, we went down one. It was scary, but fun! Then, after some shopping we had showers and had dinner.

The food was delicious, and we were able to meet one of the other contestants, Matilda. She and her dad were super nice and we talked about social media and the differences between our two schools (let's just say a 450 student country school has a lot of differences to a 1200 student girls only school).

SUNDAY:

After some brekky we got ready for a dolphin and shipwreck cruise! It was a lot of fun meeting the other contestants, and seeing all of 2 dolphins fins!

After that, free time! My mum and I explored a multicultural festival full of food and dancing everywhere! After we got back, Allan convinced the Victorians to have dinner out together, so we went out to a nice pub! After that my mum and I watched Jurassic World and headed off to bed.

MONDAY:

Back to early wake ups, 7am this time. After some breakfast we got dressed and headed out for the big day! Going to Parliament House for the competition was super cool, and it's an experience I'll never forget.

Now, like last time, we had an impromptu speech. This time was a bit different. Going into it, I heard other contestants say that it was gonna be a debating topic, so that would've been fun. But no, instead it was, "If I could Travel through Time".

This was a massive relief, and although I tried my hardest, sadly I didn't make top 3. After I had some lunch, we gathered our things and headed off back home.

I want to thank everyone who's supported me through this journey, like Mrs Barrie, Mrs Prior and Mr Hart, Allan, just to name a few. I want to thank Legacy for giving me the opportunity to go to Adelaide and experience all the wonderful things I did. I also wish to thank classmates and other peers for all of the kind words and wishes, they mean the world to me.

And to Legacy: I'm just getting started!





YEAR 7 FOOD TECHNOLOGY CUPCAKES SEMESTER 2

Students were given a Design Brief to design four cupcakes based on one of the following themes: animals, pirates, gardens, farming, gaming, sports or planets. They were to investigate a theme, design their cupcakes and then prepare a shopping list of ingredients needed. For an extra challenge, some students were required to produce six cupcakes on the theme of “food”. It was great to see everyone put in a lot of time and effort into the decorating. Here are the final products from 7A.

Mrs Prior



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.



Great Victorian Bike Ride



IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2023

19/11/23 - 4/12/23—China Trip—Chinese Speaking Conference

23/11/23 - 1/12/23—Year 10-11 Head Start

25/11/23 - 3/12/23—Great Victorian Bike Ride

1/12/23—Year 10's Last Day

14/12/23—Year 12 Graduation

14/12/23—Year 7-9 end of year golf day

15/12/23—Year 7-9 end of year Halls Gap pool day



Semester 2 Reports will be uploaded on student portals Friday 15 December, 2023. Should you require a hard copy, please contact the front office.

A reminder that students and families receive written feedback (achievement, grade and areas for improvement) on completed learning units throughout the semester. The feedback can be located on students' XUNO portal and for families through the XUNO app or webpage within the tab 'Completed tasks'.

Students are encouraged to read the feedback provided after each unit of learning so that they can implement the recommended strategies to improve.

Library Competition—Guess The Number Of Lollies In The Jar

The competition is open to all students. Entry forms, and jar of lollies, are in the library and the winner will be the student who is the first to guess the correct amount, or the closest guess. Entry forms must be filled in correctly to be eligible to enter.

Competition begins: Friday 1st December and ends on Tuesday 12th December. Winners will be published in the Newsletter and will be contacted by Xuno message.

First prize: \$50 Gift Card and the jar of lollies

Second prize: \$25 Gift Card

Book of the Week

The Inheritance Games

Author: Jennifer Lynn Barnes

A Billion-Dollar Fortune.

Avery has a plan: keep her head down, work hard for a better future. Then an eccentric billionaire dies, leaving her almost his entire fortune. And no one, least of all Avery, knows why.

A Deadly Game.

Now she must move into the mansion she's inherited. It's filled with secrets and codes, and the old man's surviving relatives – a family hell-bent on discovering why Avery got 'their' money.

Winner Takes All.

Soon she is caught in a deadly game that everyone is playing. But just how far will they go to keep their fortune?

