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RESPECT
INCLUSION
ASPIRATION
RESILIENCE
PARTICIPATION

Principal's Communication 15 December 2023

The 2023 school year is fast coming to an end. With that in mind, all staff have been using their time productively preparing for 2024. While our general aim in 2024 is to continue to improve in all aspects of student learning and engagement, our specific focus will be:

- Learning - Support both those who need extra support and those who have thrived to continue to extend their learning, especially in numeracy
- Wellbeing - Effectively mobilise available resources to support students' wellbeing and mental health, especially the most vulnerable

These two "Key Improvement Strategies" have been the subject of Leadership and staff focus over the past year and planning is well underway to ensure the agreed actions are implemented. In addition, the new School Values, the School Wide Positive Behaviours, and our instructional Model will provide the foundation of our learning culture in the classroom and around the school community. Students, staff, and parents will all play a key role in embedding this culture into our everyday practice to ensure the students are given every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

The School Council held their last meeting for this year on Wednesday 22nd November with a Christmas dinner incorporated into the evening. The principal's report covered much of the highlights in recent weeks. Other discussions included the staffing progress for 2023 and the school review. The 2024 proposed budget was also presented and confirmed by the council with thanks to Marie McAloon for putting it together. I thanked the school council on behalf of our school community for their commitment and support over 2023.

In previous Connections I have kept the school community up to date with staff movement for 2023. While we are still processing a small number of staffing matters, we have established an impressive staffing team for 2024. In summary, we say farewell and thanks to the following staff who are moving on: Ebony Jennings, Casey Gray, Nick Oliver, Mat Teasdale, Donna Zhang, Kent Beveridge, Jen Barkley and Jordan Main with Zoe Jones taking maternity leave. We welcome our new staff; Dean Greenhalgh (Assistant Principal); Heidi Rees (Science); Tamika Joy (Health & Physical Education); Bai Lu (Chinese language assistant). We are looking forward to working with our new staff in 2024.

After another anxious wait our VCE results were well received by the students and staff with majority of the students communicating they were pleased with their results. The staff reflected on the study scores and were very pleased with how the students collectively went. Our English faculty had a statistically significant increase in the average Study Score showcasing the hard work put in by all staff and students. The Year 12 Presentation Evening on Thursday night highlighted our VCE Dux Tobie Ripper and VCAL Dux Joslyn Bibby. Congratulations to Tobie, Joslyn and all our Year 12 students for all they have achieved. I'm sure each student will pursue their future aspirations and be successful regardless of their results. We look forward to hearing their stories in the future.

As the curtain closes on another year, I extend my thanks to all the school community for your efforts and support, with a special mention to Emily Dalkin and the school council. A big thankyou to the Teaching staff and Education Support staff for their devotion to continuing to provide a positive learning environment for our students. Finally, congratulations to the students on your achievements during 2023 and I wish all our school community a Merry Christmas and a safe and relaxing New Year.

Murray Hart
Acting Principal



Tobie Ripper—VCE Dux



Joslyn Bibby —VCE VM Dux

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.



Year 9 Food Technology



To finish up the year students made Gingerbread houses. They made the dough and cut out their templates in one double lesson, and at the end of the week decorated their house. Students did a great job, and it was pleasing to see them all come up with their own, unique creations using a variety of icings, and decorations.



Thank Goodness You're Here!

8B & 8C Performing Arts classes presented Thank Goodness You're Here to the school on Friday 8 December. The students presented a range of surprise improv scenarios for guests to enter that included a restaurant, a stranded wildlife safari and bank robbery. Guest performers were Mr Reynolds, Mr Illig, Mrs Lang, Ms McIlivride, Mr Wheeler and Mr Hart. The students and guests did a great job of creating hilarity for the whole school.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2023 SUMMARY

We started the year off by giving all students at Stawell Secondary College the chance to self-nominate for a position on the team. We received 17 nominations. The school captains and vice-captains – Kiandra Pavey, Ava Duxson, Tommy Williams and Tobie Ripper – were to be a part of the team too. Initially we were thinking two members per year level but the school captains decided that we should have more than two representatives per year level (so as to not leave anyone out). There were five year 7 nominations, which is fantastic! The school captains then conducted a vote with all of the year 7's to determine who would get the positions.

Our 2023 team consisted of: Charmaine Lockwood, Tayla Field, Cheyenne Digney, Jules Lockwood, Kyle Bearham, Kayan Barnes, Kyle Ahern, Xander Gragasin, Kayla Membrey, Maisie Gray, Amahli Sheen, Addison Hutchins, Ruby Nicholson and Liam Nicholson.

Kayla Membrey was elected the President, Maisie Gray the Secretary and Tayla Field was the Vice President. The students received their Student Leadership Team badge at a whole school assembly.

We held 2 meetings per term, more if we had an event coming up. The first thing that the team was involved with was to produce a list of things that our school was doing well and things we could improve upon. We then used this list to survey the students regarding what we could improve around the school.

Students also were asked to contribute to the School Wide Positive Behaviour S behaviour matrix, looking at our five school values of respect, resilience, aspiration, participation and inclusion and how these are displayed around the school.

On Monday 5th June three students from the team went to the Stawell Library for a youth meeting with people from Freeza and Stawell Neighbourhood House. We discussed activities that the library could run for youth. Kiandra Pavey, Kayan Barnes and Ruby Nicholson represented Stawell Secondary College.

In Term 2 the team ran a Go Pink Day on Tuesday 6th June. We sold pink ribbons for 50c on the day and it was a casual clothes day, where students and staff were encouraged to wear pink. The Student Leadership Team chose to have this day to support research into breast cancer. 209 ribbons were sold in total! A big thank you to Kayan Barnes, Addison Hutchins, Charmaine Lockwood and Amahli Sheen for selling these. The school raised \$338.55 for this cause.

On Thursday 14th September the Student Leadership Team plus friends participated in a discussion about the youth survey that the entire school was invited to complete earlier this year. This was called the NGSC Youth Strategy Workshop and was led by Marcy Britten who is the Community Health and Engagement Project Officer for the region. The results from the survey were reviewed, gaps were identified and ideas for areas for improvement were brainstormed. A big thank you to the following students for volunteering to participate alongside the Student Leadership Team: Rubiah Crouch, William Evans, Chloe Formosa, Henry Hemley, Eva Hurley, Imogen Lowe, Lewis Reading, Isaiah Taylor, Hollie Walker, D'Art Walls and Charlotte Duckett.

On Friday 13th October the Student Leadership Team ran a Sports Colours Day. It was a casual clothes day, where students and staff were encouraged to wear their favourite sports teams. At lunchtime we provided a BBQ for the school. A big thank you to the following students from the Student Leadership Team: Kiandra Pavey, Kyle Ahern, Tommy Williams, Xander Gragasin, Charmaine Lockwood, Liam Nicholson and Amahli Sheen for giving up their time to collect the food from the supermarket, set up, cook and clean up after the BBQ. A special mention to Noah Lyons, Lana and Kiah Harrison who donated their time too. We raised \$301 for kids with cancer.

Kayan Barnes, Charmaine Lockwood and myself were involved in the Remembrance Day ceremony held at our school on Friday 10th November. The students had to lay the wreath and raise the flags.

In Term 4 we went back to our main project which we had discussed earlier in the year; the team wanted to do something or provide something for the school. Mr Hart said that he would give us money for our cause. The team has provided Mr Hart and the staff Leadership Team with a proposal – more to come in 2024.

Finally, we are in the process of accepting nominations for the Student Leadership Team for 2024. Current members are able to re-nominate and some of the students have jumped at this opportunity. Kayla Membrey and Lewis Reading who are the School Captains for 2024, are automatically part of the team. To date, we have 6 new members who have self-nominated and 6 who have re-nominated for 2024.

2023 was a big year for the team. As this was the first time the Student Leadership Team had operated at Stawell Secondary College we learnt a lot along the way and there will be some changes to the way the team operates in 2024. The main aim of the Student Leadership Team is for the students at Stawell Secondary College to have a voice and this was achieved in 2023. I look forward to working with the team again in 2024.

Mrs Prior

Wellbeing Teacher for a Lesson

This term Ms Jones's Year 9 Health class has been participating in activities to enhance our Health and Wellbeing. After we were taught about the importance of wellbeing and mindfulness in Term 1, we were asked to be a 'Wellbeing teachers for a Lesson'. Our task, either individually or as a pair, was to plan and conduct an activity that enhances student wellbeing, that could easily be taught within a lesson. We needed to be able to explain how our activity improves wellbeing and ensure that it was inclusive of all our peers. These are some of the activities our class came up with:

- 'Monster Ball'
- A Nature Walk
- Painting- 'Where you see yourself in 20 years'
- 'The Archibald Prize'
- 'Bounce'
- Table Tennis Tournament
- Just Dance
- Board Games
- Scavenger Hunt
- Classroom team games

We then chose when we'd like to take our lesson with the supervision and support of Ms Jones. Our class really enjoyed the student led activities as everyone was really respectful to the student/s in charge, listening to instruction and having a go. Here are some photos of the activities.



Year 7 Transition Day

Tuesday was an exciting day for our school as we welcomed the Year 7 students of 2024 for the state-wide Year 7 Transition Day. The day was designed to introduce the incoming students to our school environment but also to provide a smooth transition into the exciting world of secondary education at Stawell Secondary College.

Our future Year 7's dived straight into six different subjects throughout the day. They had a shot at setting some classroom rules in Humanities, unleashed their creativity in Art, tackled mathematical challenges, conducted a Christmassy experiment in Science, burnt some energy in Physical Education, and explored the English language. The day was crafted to give students a taste of what secondary education will be like for them next year.

The day was not just about the academics. It was an opportunity for the students to connect with each other, create some new friendships that will make their journey into high school exciting and richer. It gave them the opportunity to meet our dedicated staff who guided them throughout the day. Also, they began to adapt themselves to our six-period day, navigated multiple classrooms across a bigger school, and experienced recess and lunchtime alongside some their older peers of next year.

In 2024, they will officially move into the Year 7 Hub, claim their lockers, and start their journey as high schoolers. Term 1 next year has a heap of fun in store, from the Year 7 camp at Halls Gap to events like Swimming Sports and Athletics.

It was awesome to have all the 2024 Year 7 students together for the first time. The excitement continues to build for next year.

-Hamish McDonough (Year 7 Coordinator 2024)





GREAT VIC BIKE RIDE

Saturday 25 November – Sunday 3 December 2023; 9-day ride; 540km; elevation 4325m.



Where do we start? This was obviously a very challenging adventure. A nine-hour bus trip, rain on 6 of the nine days, wet tents, wet clothes, wet shoes, riding in the rain, the cold, wet ovals, steep hills, tough riding, lack of camping space, rice, and more rice, wet sleeping bags, no phone service, how did we survive??? We survived through our teamwork, resilience, aspiration, determination, and sharing. This made it possible for us to ride into Wonthaggi all together to complete the 2024 GVBR. The highlights were many; teaching Amelia to play euchre, teaming with Shayla, watching Charmaine do the worm, sharing a laugh with Gerard, Oska always ready first to ride, singing with Sienna, trying to take Freya's photo, quiet chats with Carolyn, riding 81kms with Sophie, Kirby's birthday, Leon leading our riding days, Declan trying to sleep with the lights on; but the biggest highlights were the time we shared together, our final night celebration and being awarded the best school and our final day riding together. A big thank you and congratulations to all including Marnie Ritter, Gerard and Marie McAloon, Carolyn Haynes, Matt Madin and the families and students involved and all our sponsors. The GVBR will be back in 2024, get onboard this great experience.



Marrung News

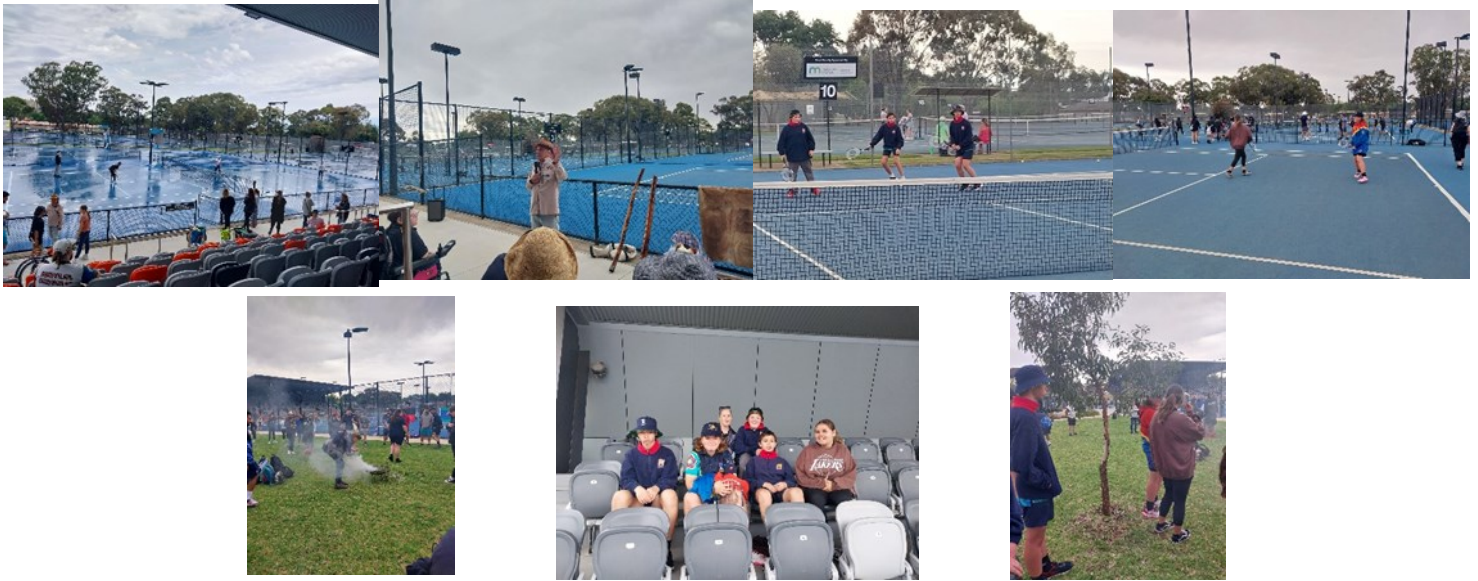
Culture on Court Bendigo December 2023

Last Thursday we travelled to Bendigo for Culture on Court with Tennis Australia. Thank you to Franki from Budja Youth Team for organising a fun day out.

Students were greeted by David Law and Auntie Kelly and involved in a smoking ceremony to start the day's events off.

We enjoyed listening to Uncle Ron Murray playing the didgeridoo and telling us a dream time story about the wombat and koala. Students managed to enjoy a few games of tennis before the rain came and washed us out.

Students enjoyed a BBQ lunch to end the day before the trip back to Stawell which was eventful with a lot of singing and laughter.



December 2023 end of year celebrations at Grampians Adventure Mini Golf in Halls Gap

To celebrate a fantastic year for the Marrung First Nations Students we went to Grampians Mini Golf and enjoyed a fun filled game of mini golf and afterwards enjoyed a delicious lunch in the café.

Students had an eventful time trying to keep the ball on the green, with a few balls ending up in the stream or in the trees. A hole in one kept the dream alive to be victorious and a Par 10 made us try harder in the next hole. Well done to Jules for having the best score of the day with bragging rights as No 1, until next time!



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.

Native garden mural is completed.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the students and staff who have been involved in making this native garden area come together. It has been a huge effort, and it is looking fantastic. We look forward to using this space next year with our Marrung students and the wider community.

A huge thank you to Richard Parry for building the mural structure and Tanisha Lovett for completing the Scar Tree / Grampians mural it looks perfect in our native garden area.



POEMS

In recent weeks, students in 8A and 8B English have enjoyed creating various types of poems. Here are some excellent examples:

Love smells like the most fragrant rose
Always hugging, pulling me close
Love sounds like the most pleasant song
Always caring, doing no wrong

Earl

(limerick)

There once was an old man called Sam
Who really did like to eat jam
Who has it on toast
And even on roast
But he really loves it on ham

Will

(limerick)

The rhythm was pleasant to my ears
I'd been listening to it for years
Heard it since I was a child
But everyone thought it was mild
But it still turns my dopamine gears

Brody

(metaphor/limerick)

Sunset
Gold star
Red, orange, pink
Painted across the horizon
This quiet time, time freezes
The sky is falling

Kelanee

(cinquain)

Trampoline
Entertaining, exhilarating
Jumping, flipping, spinning
The best at night

Exercise

Leonie

(cinquain)

Music is my life
Singing helps me calm right down
Gets me in the mood

Jedd

(haiku)

IMPORTANT UNIFORM NEWS

We are thrilled to announce that, following the feedback from students and parents, we are introducing a new school polo top from the start of 2024.

The most exciting news is that EVERY student will receive a FREE polo top at the commencement of 2024.

On Monday 29 January and Tuesday 30th January, from 12 pm until 4.00 pm, students are invited to come to the school assembly hall to receive their new school polo top. Parents are most welcome to come along and assist with sizing if you wish.

Our new top will also be available for purchase from Fosters Mensland in January 2024 should you wish to have more than one top for your child.

Students will be able to also wear the existing white polo top until the end of 2024.



Another change to our school uniform is that our approved footwear will be black shoes or boots with no visible logo or patterns.

The final change to our school uniform will be the introduction of a new sports top. This top will replace the previous red top with a new modern design and improved fabric. The current red polo top may be worn until the end of 2024. The new design will be available from Fosters' Mensland in January 2024.

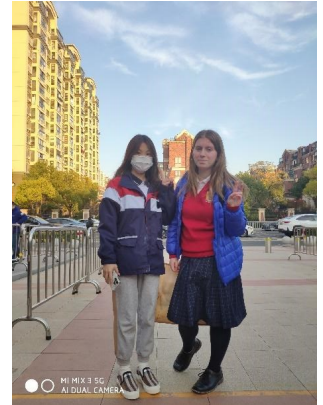


Chinese Report

Chinese Speech Conference

On behalf of Stawell Secondary College and all of the China trip students' parents, we would like to thank Ms Ma for her hard work over the last two weeks! It was her first overseas trip as a group leader, and she has done a fantastic job looking after our students!

I believe this has been a unique experience for the five students involved (Chloe, Sienna, Clara, Sarah and Dylan) to develop their personal and leadership skills and improve their language capacity and cultural awareness. I am extremely impressed by their resilience and aspiration throughout the journey, not just in China, but for their determination to take on this opportunity when it was presented to them. They should be commended for their persistence while practising their speeches prior to the trip and for their resilience in coping with all of the challenges they faced in China. I hope this trip has had a positive impact that will encourage them to keep improving their Chinese and being cultural ambassadors in our wider school community.



We have over 30 students committed to our school organised trip 2024. We will be visiting Shanghai, Beijing and Chengdu. Thanks to all of the students who have expressed their interests and are willing to go out of their comfort zone and grasp the amazing opportunity! If students or parents have any questions in relations to our 2024 School China Trip, please talk to Ms Ling.



Last week and this week, we have had the opportunity to celebrate this year's Chinese learning with different groups: Year 11 HeadStart Chinese class, HSK class, Year 8 and Year 9 Chinese classes. Students enjoyed the Chinese cuisine and thanks to New Hong Kong our local Chinese restaurants for accommodating us! The food is delicious!



IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2023/2024

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

15/12/23—Last day of timetabled classes

29/1/24— School office open from 8:30am-4pm for payment of curriculum voluntary contributions & CSEF applications. Campion Books can be collected from 12pm—4pm in the Assembly Hall.

29/1/24—Pupil Free Day

30/1/24—Pupil Free Day

31/1/24—Year 7 & Year 12 (This includes Year 11 students doing a Year 12 subject) first day of term.

1/2/23— All students attend school.

Library 'Guess the Lollies in the jar'

Competition Winners

Lollies in the jar:- 141

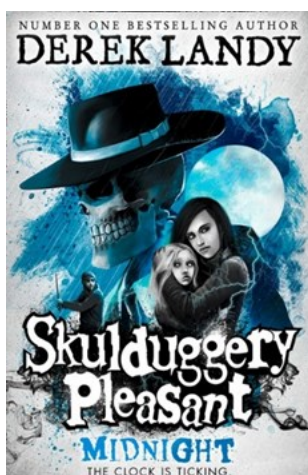
1st prize: Caydence Wilson – Guess 142

2nd prize: Isabell Read – Guess 147

Congratulations to the winners!!!



To further expand our Active Schools Grant we have installed a netball ring on the modified netball court. Throughout before school, recess and lunchtime we have a range of students using this



Book of the Week

Skulduggery Pleasant: Midnight

Author: Derek Landy

“We’re going to play a little game. Valkyrie. Do you like games? I hope you do. I call it Let’s Save Alice. The rules are: you have to do this alone...”

For years, Valkyrie Cain has struggled to keep her loved ones safe from harm, plunging into battle – time and time again – by Skulduggery Pleasant’s side, and always emerging triumphant.

But now the very thing that Valkyrie fights for is in danger as a ruthless killer snatches her little sister.

With Skulduggery racing to catch up and young sorcerer Omen Darkly scrambling along behind, Valkyrie only has six hours to find Alice before it’s too late.