

Regional Legacy Public Speaking Competition

On 2nd August, the Regional Junior Legacy Public Speaking Competition was held by Ararat Legacy. Seven students competed from Stawell Secondary College, Ararat College and Marian College. The event comprised of two presentations, a 5-minute prepared speech and a 2-minute impromptu speech. We had two students participate, Sienna Santuccione (Year 10) and Shayla Madin (Year 8). They were both awarded equal first prize, a \$75 book voucher and certificate as well as entry into the State Competition on 11th September. Thank you to Mrs Barrie and Mrs Prior for helping prepare the students.

For the competition, we had to choose a topic to speak about in our prepared speech. I chose self sacrifice. I was the last person to present for my prepared speech. I was really nervous! After delivering my speech, we had a morning tea. After 20 minutes we were told the impromptu speech order. I was first! I was taken to a room, and we were given the topic "Is Social Media a blessing or a curse?". We had 5 minutes to write the speech. I was then taken to the stage and read my speech. I was then able to watch everyone else's impromptu speeches. We then nervously awaited the results. Both Sienna and I won! I am very proud of myself and the work I put in. After many photos and congratulations, we had lunch and went home, stopping at McDonalds on the way.

By Shayla Madin

The topic of my prepared speech was "The Importance of Social Justice". I chose this topic as it is something I feel strongly about. I was very excited and nervous to present! I really enjoyed presenting my speech, as it had taken weeks to make and memorise and I was finally able to speak it to Legacy. Then we had the impromptu speeches, with the topic being, "Is Social Media a blessing or a curse?" For the impromptu speech, I was relieved as it is a topic we discuss often at school. It was a great experience doing the impromptu, and it taught me a lot about public speaking. When the winners were announced, I was so proud of myself and Shayla! I was told by a Legatee member that it was the best speech he had seen in the 16 years of him being there. I was very honoured! I am very excited to speak at States, with a new speech and more experience.

By Sienna Santuccione



All students and families please note that the student free day previously advertised for Monday August 12 has been cancelled. This day will be a normal school day with normal timetabled classes. Apologies for the late notice.

Bike Safety

We wanted to remind students and families around the safety requirements when riding a bike or scooter to school.

Helmets

All Students – whether they are riding a bike or are a passenger – must wear a properly fitting and fastened helmet that meets Australian safety standard AS/NZS2063.

Where to ride

Children can ride on the road, but it may be safer for them to ride on the footpath. Children 12 years or under can ride on footpaths, bike paths, shared paths, and separated footpaths. If you are 13 years or older and you are accompanying a child 12 years or under you can ride with them on a footpath.

Scooter Safety

Helmets

All children – whether they are riding a bike or are a passenger – must wear a properly fitting and fastened helmet that meets Australian safety standard AS/NZS2063.

Where to ride

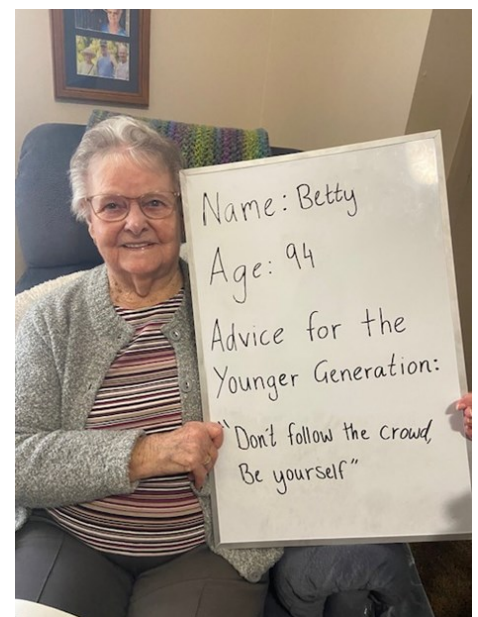
Scooters can be used on, footpaths, bicycle paths, shared paths, the bicycle side of separated paths, shared zones some low-speed roads. When travelling on a road users must keep as far to the left side of the road as is practicable.



Eventide Home Advice

Klancy Repper from our Year 12 VM class has decided for her project this year she would speak with residents at Stawell Eventide Home and ask them for

Advice for the younger generation

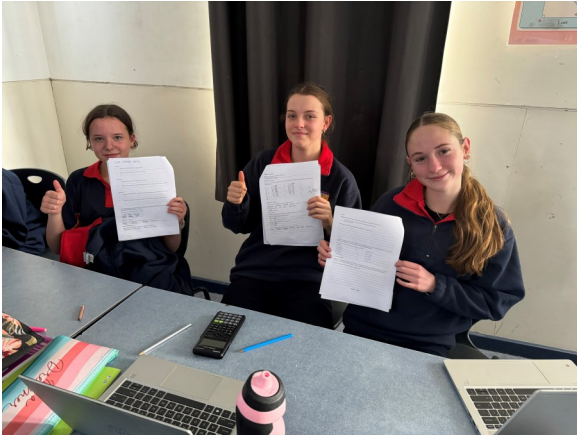




Olympics at SSC



With so many eyes on the 2024 Paris Olympics, the staff and students at Stawell Secondary College have been bringing the games into the classroom throughout the school.



YEAR 8 MATHS

The Year 8s have been completing a data investigation, collecting data from the Olympics and studying it to determine the mean, median, mode and range. This week, students investigated what makes a country wealthy and ranked countries based on their wealth. Then, students picked an event and found the top 10 scores for both females and males, calculating the averages and determining how consistent the performances are. Some students have shown aspiration by learning Year 9 and 10 skills such as Interquartile Range and Standard Deviation which has been absolutely amazing!

House Olympics

MEDAL TALLY



Week four of our house Olympics was underway this week, with students aiming to demonstrate the school value of resilience. Our students needed to demonstrate a willingness to keep trying, overcome obstacles and value their own success to be recognised as resilient.

The current medal tally is a close one, with each house securing at least one gold medal and Black Range just narrowly leading with two gold medals to their name.

This week a bonus medal was awarded to members of staff for their work in supporting the recognition of student's hard work and achievements. Well done to Shane Williams, Robyn Williams and Royce Bao for receiving these medals and supporting their students.

University Open Days 2024

That time of year has rolled around again where the universities are prepping for their 2024 open days. Please see the list of university dates below and go to their respective websites for more information.



Geelong—18th August 2024
Burwood—25th August 2024



Mildura— 14th August 2024
Bendigo— 25th August 2024



25th August 2024



Melbourne—11th August 2024
Ballarat—25th August 2024



18th August 2024



11th August 2024

Laptops for Students - 2025

Students who entered into the Year 7 Laptop program at the start of Year 7 in 2022 are reminded that parents and students may consider replacing this device for 2025.

Devices that are three years old can start to struggle to run the latest software required for many advanced senior classes.

Parents may purchase a laptop from our preferred supplier 'Learning With Technologies'. The advantage of this is that the laptop has onsite repairs at Stawell Secondary College for all warranty and insurance issues.

Laptops purchased before December will have delivery for mid-January (stock pending) the following year ready for the commencement of Term 1, 2025. Families are welcome to commence the purchase of a new device whenever it is suitable.

Please check the Learning With Technologies to see what devices are recommended for our students.

Portal: <http://stawellsc.orderportal.com.au/>

YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT RECALL EXPERIMENT

How many things can YOU remember at once?

During week three and four, Year 12 Psychology students conducted a school-wide student recall experiment testing short term memory. Nearly all classes and students were able to participate.

Classes were shown an image displaying 12 items for one minute. The image of 12 items was removed for 20 seconds (the time when short term memory starts to fade) after which time students were instructed to write what they recalled seeing.

Twelve was deliberately chosen as the number of items as it exceeds the number of things most people can remember at one time. It's usually between five to nine, unless a mnemonic strategy is used.

Some mnemonic strategies include chunking (breaking information into categories e.g. fruit, colours, pantry, reading etc) acronyms (making a word or non-sense word from the first letters e.g. LABB COP MMMMM) and acrostics (making a sentence from the first letters e.g. My toddler Ben often likes a pretty big, mighty, magnificent milk milo).

These strategies can reduce the number of items to be remembered, make information more memorable and act as a prompt. Beneficial for everyday life and in studying for tests. Given the time constraint in this case, chunking would probably be the most efficient.

Classes were subject to either 'Condition 1' or 'Condition 2'. Condition 1 students were educated on mnemonic devices after the experiment, and Condition 2 students were educated before the experiment. Data is being compared between the two conditions. The results so far show that 'Condition 2' students are scoring more items recalled than Condition 1 students, as was predicted.

The Year 12s are currently analysing the data and will be constructing a scientific poster to complete their SAC.

Andrea Brooks



AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

We congratulate Aryan Judge, Riley Hope, Scott Tulloch, Declan Seaman, Brody Johnson, Kayan Barnes and Lylah Slorach who will be participating in the 2024 Australian Mathematics Competition. Some last minute preparation for the big event.

Could you be a participant in next year's Maths Competition? Try this question!

A 3 by 5 grid of dots is set out as shown. How many straight line segments can be drawn that join two of these dots and pass through exactly one other dot?



Answer: 22



WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CAREGIVERS / GUARDIANS TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Our school, with the Department of Education, is conducting our annual survey to find out what parents / caregivers / guardians think of our school. The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of our school, student behaviour, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage all families to participate. Our school will use the anonymous survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improve what we offer for your child/children.

We urge all of our families to participate in this important survey.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey will be open from Monday 29 July 2024 until Friday 30 August 2024.

A letter, with the full survey details, has been posted to you today and an email will be sent to every family on Monday 29 July. Both correspondence will have the log in details. The survey results will be communicated to parents / caregivers / guardians through our Connections newsletter.

Although we are unable to see which families have participated in this anonymous survey, we invite every family who submits the survey to email our Business Manager, Marie McAloon, on

Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au stating your Family Name and 'Survey Completed'. All families participating will be entered into a free Raffle with a prize of a \$100 voucher to be spent at any business in Stawell.

If you have any questions about this survey or you require assistance to access the survey, please do not hesitate to contact our Business Manager, Marie McAloon.

Thank you

Murray Hart

SUBJECT SELECTION INTERVIEWS online

All interviews will be conducted online/telephone Parents/carers are encouraged to attend interview., if possible.

12-16 August – Year 10 2025 subject selection interviews

19-23 August - Year 11 2025 subject selection interviews

26-30 August - Year 12 2025 subject selection interviews

*** There are no student free days during the subject selection weeks – timetabled classes will operate as normal***

Congratulations to Ms Joy who recently competed in the dryland sled dog National Championships and World Cup races. The World Cup event was in Queensland, followed by another event in South Australia, the National Championships in Western Australia, then back to South Australia for another World Cup. Ms Joy got some amazing results. 5x 1st Places (across WA, SA & QLD), 3x 2nd Places (WA & SA), 3x 3rd Places (QLD).



YEAR 10 ART

Year 10 Art students have been exploring the art style of cubism and the art practice of David Hockney. Students have engaged very well with this activity, resulting in some fabulous Joiner portraits of fellow class members. Great job to all students.



NAPLAN RESULTS

We congratulate our Year 7 & 9 students who completed the NAPLAN tests earlier this year and have just received feedback on their literacy and numeracy levels. Each year students in Year 9 who have achieved excellence through performing in the top band for Reading or Numeracy or both are awarded a certificate of achievement. This year we congratulate and acknowledge Lacey Bertram (pictured), Heidi Kane, Hamish Morrissey, Earl Pestijo (pictured) who each received an excellent achievement in Reading and Blake Hyslop (pictured), Scott Tulloch and Leonie Williams (pictured) for their excellent numeracy achievement.

Supervision arrangements before and after school

Student safety at Stawell Secondary College is our highest priority. The safe and appropriate supervision of students is an important element of our duty of care to students. Part of this duty is ensuring parents and students are aware of our student supervision arrangements before and after school.

Before school: School grounds are supervised from 8.40am each morning.

After school: School grounds are supervised until 3.40pm each afternoon, including the rural bus exchange.

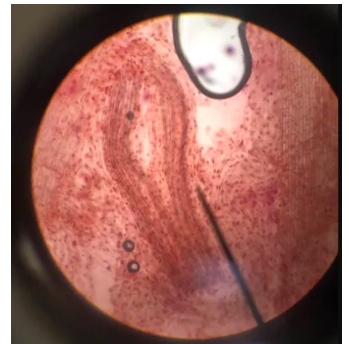
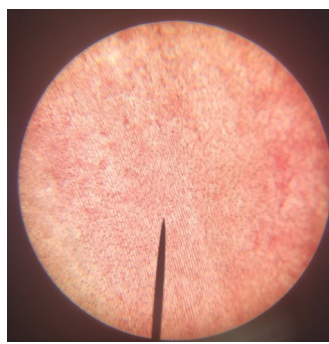
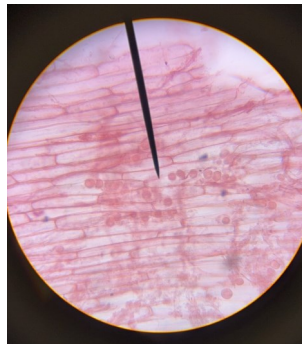
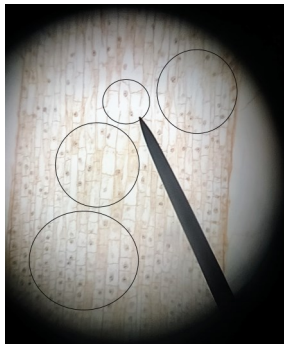


Students on school grounds outside these times will **not** be supervised (unless they are attending an approved before or after school program or supervised extracurricular activity).

Parents/carers are requested to ensure that students do not attend school outside of these supervised times.

YEAR 11 BIOLOGY

The Year 11 Biology class of Mrs. Bernardo did the staining and squashing procedures in the growing root tip of onion and garlic cells to observe the characteristic changes in the chromosomes at different stages of mitosis (prophase, metaphase, anaphase and telophase) at 100x and 400x magnification. The root tips were preserved in acetic ethanol fixative, treated with acid and heat to break up the cellulose wall and squash the tissue on the microscopic slide. The aceto-orcein stain was used to turn the chromosomes into purple red colour.



Youth event at Stawell Library
celebrating book week!

Tuesday 20 August, 4-6pm

Suitable for 12-25yr age group

RPG ROLE-PLAYING GAME
TABLE-TOP STORYTELLING

Dungeons and Dragons

Dress-ups encouraged!

BOOK SWAP

Including ex-library books

Recommend some of your favourite reads

GAMES

Including giant games

SNACKS AND DRINKS

All this and more, so come along for some after-school food and fun!

Enquiries on 03 5358 1274

Reading is Magic!

Children's Book Council of Australia Children's Book Week
17-23 August



2024 Semester 2 Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews

Interviews shall be held on the following sessions:

Session 1: Thursday 29th August - 4.30pm – 7.00pm

Session 2: Friday 30th August - 10.00am – 11.30am

Session 3: Friday 30th August – 12.00 – 1.30pm

Students are not required to attend timetabled classes on Friday 30th August but would be expected to attend interviews with a parent/guardian. Parents will be able to book interviews via the parent portal from 4.00pm on Thursday 15th August.

Marrung News

Naidoc Celebrations 2024

On Monday 22nd July our Marrung students were invited to join Stawell West Primary School for Naidoc Celebrations with Uncle Ron Marks.

Our students showed great leadership skills helping the students with the activities and ensuring all students were involved. Keeping them safe around the fires, assisting with making the damper dough and cleaning up afterwards.

The students gathered firewood, sticks etc to build fires for cooking, helped make johnny cakes, damper and assisted Uncle Ron in cooking the crocodile and kangaroo. They all enjoyed eating the delicious food.



Naidoc Display

This year's theme was Keep the Fire Burning, Black Loud and Proud. The Marrung students decided on a display for inspiration and chose to do posters on people or part of First Nations culture that keeps the fire burning in them to achieve.



Year 9

During the Year Level assembly last week, students who received Year Level awards were all acknowledged for their aspiration for various activities. Jack Reading for his sporting success by competing in the cross-country at a State Level. Kayan Barnes and Scott Tulloch for their charismatic approach for the delivery of their speech at the recent Whole School Assembly.

Chinese Report

My favourite part of the Chinese excursion was walking around Melbourne and seeing all the different things as well as the kung fu lesson. Ruby Nicholson

My favourite part was walking around Chinatown and seeing all the interesting sights. Oliver Hunter

The Chinese excursion was very good, they have great food. Tom Collins

During the Year 8 Chinese Excursion, I thoroughly enjoyed the excursion with my main highlights including: Grocery shopping and bubble tea, Dumplings at lunchtime and the Chinese fitness dragons. Will Evans

The China trip was fun and we had lots of fun doing the activities. The food was yum and all the activities were enjoyable. Ryder Davison

The Year 8 Chinese excursion was really fun. It was nice to have a day surrounded with everyone and trying new things. My highlight was walking around, looking at buildings, exploring things in Melbourne, trying new foods and spending time with friends. Kaylee Wright

I enjoyed everything! The food was delicious, the workshops were so fun, the shopping was great! And the noodle making was extraordinary! Everything was so enjoyable, and I would love to do it again! Shiloh Walls

I really enjoyed our Chinatown excursion! I have to say the food was amazing! Also, the shopping was great, I brought a lot of things. Overall, the trip was extraordinary, and it was definitely a great experience! Claire Christian

I liked going to the Chinese supermarket and walking around Chinatown. I also enjoyed going to Victoria University and the building was really high and it was cool. The bus was fun and we should do it again! Eva Hurley

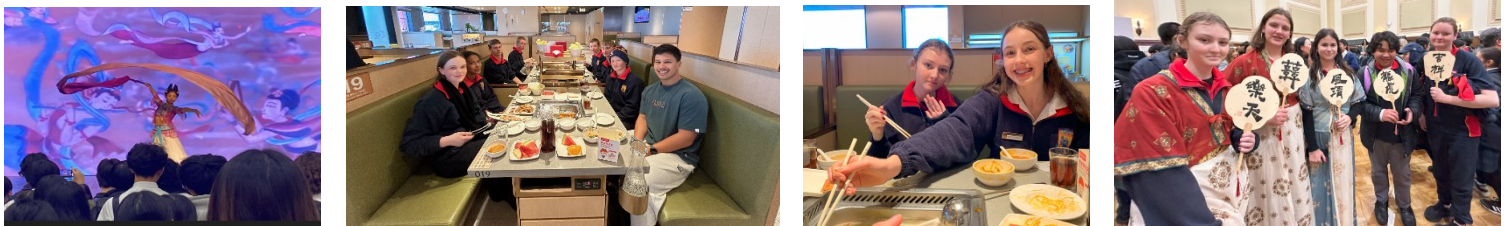
We really enjoyed the Chinese excursion, and we can't wait to have a Chinese camp next year! Ryan Skurrie and Harry Holloway



Chinese Report

Year 9 +10 State-wide Chinese Culture Day

On Thursday 26th July, our students had the opportunity to participate in the State-wide Chinese Culture Day with other schools from across Victoria. The day was mixed with Chinese Culture Performances, interactive games and culture experiences. Although we thoroughly enjoyed the experience, the highlights were still the hot pot and walking around in Box Hill Shopping Centre.



2025 China Trip

A kind reminder that 2025 Chinese Trip deposit payment is due on 17th August. If families have any questions, please reach out to Ms Ling. The spots are limited.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2024

21/8/24—Music Winter Concert
23/8/24—Mega Music Day
30/8/24—Parent Teacher Student Interviews—Pupil Free Day
3/9/24—23/9/24—2024 China Trip
20/9/24—Last Day of Term 3—Early Dismissal
7/10/24—First Day of Term 4



Stawell Secondary School Reading Competition

Start Date: Monday 12th August 2024
Finish Date: Friday 18th October 2024
Winners will be announced in the first Connections after the close of the competition.

Prizes awarded for:

- Most books read
- Most pages read

1st prize and 2nd prize for each category.

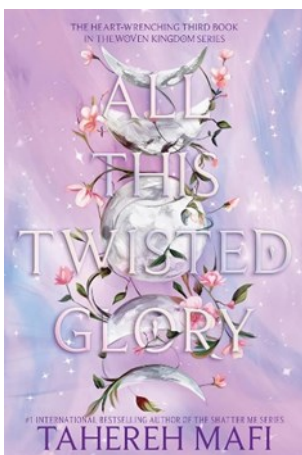
Entry forms available from the library.



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

All This Twisted Glory

Author: Tahereh Mafi

The long-lost heir to the Jinn throne, Alizeh has finally found her people – and perhaps her crown. Cyrus, the mercurial ruler of Tulan, has offered her his kingdom in a twisted exchange: one that would begin with their marriage and end with his murder.

Cyrus's dark reputation precedes him. Killing him should be easy. But despite their best efforts to despise each other, Alizeh and Cyrus are drawn together over and over with an all-consuming thirst that threatens to destroy them both.

And the Prince Kamran arrives in Tulan, ready to exact revenge ...