

CONNECTIONS

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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 urge all families to please 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.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey will be open from Monday 18 August 2025 until Friday 19 September 2025.

An email was sent to all families on Monday 18 August 2025. If you have not received the email, or would like another one sent, please email Marie McAloon on Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au or call the office on 5358 1700. The email letter has 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, Student Name and 'Survey Completed'. All families participating will be entered into a free Raffle with a prize of a \$150 voucher to be spent at any business in Stawell.

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

Thank you Murray Hart



Smile Squad will be coming on site in Week 2, Term 4 for their free dental program. If you are interested in signing your student/s up for free dental care, please follow the QR code provided. A link will also be sent home via email with an attached document outlining the Smile Squad information and an explanation of their services.



Chinese Program Report

Year 8 Chinese Excursion – First Week of Term 3 Highlights

- **Dressing Up** Students enjoyed trying on traditional Chinese costumes.
 - Chinese Meal Shared an authentic meal together.
 - **Dragon Dance** Experienced the energy of a dragon dance.
- Calligraphy Practised writing Chinese characters with brush and ink.
- **Jianzi Game** Played the traditional Chinese shuttlecock-kicking game.

























Chinese Program Report

Chinese Language Students Dumpling Making Challenges in week 2 – the winners are Ruby Nicholson & Olivia Hunter in Year 9.













This is my first true food addiction. Every time we have dumplings or spring rolls, they somehow taste even better than the last time. I honestly couldn't rate them any higher — they are absolutely delicious, out of this world, phenomenal, and spectacular. They were so, so, so amazing that I feel like I could eat an infinite amount of them. Without a doubt, 100 stars out of 5! — Henry

I gave the dumpling making experience a 5 star review, it was a fun lesson with the year 8's and the dumplings were great. – Olivia

The dumplings were crisp and juicy, cooked to perfection. I would definitely come to this restaurant again. – Alex

























News from the VM team

This week, our Year 12 students and one of our Year 11 VM students had their Masterchef competition. This was part of Unit 3 Literacy: Information and procedural texts.

The students had to plan and budget a prize winning dish. While taste is most important, judges were looking for presentation, teamwork, time management and overall application of the meal.

All meals were simple, (sushi, not so) tasty morsels, each with their own brand of deliciousness. The winner was not predicted, hence the excitement; congratulations to Darcy and Billy, with their tortilla pizzas. While simple in application, the taste was next level. The boys made their own sauce from scratch, and I feel this was their secret. The pizza was then topped with (good) ham, mozzarella and jalapenos. The combination of flavours and the texture worked exceptionally well together. The boys were a great, tidy, efficient team. Humble winners indeed.

Thank you to Mr.Hart for being our special guest judge, Sam our Pre-Service Teacher, and an extra big shout out to Tanya, who is the Food Tech fairy...she just makes stuff happen. It was a close competition, and I think Sam may still be talking about the scalloped potatoes.

Helen Giles and VM Team









WR Table Tennis





On Monday, 18th August, nine enthusiastic students from Years 7 to 10 set off bright and early at 7:30 AM to represent our school at the GWR Table Tennis Day in Warrnambool. After arriving at the Warrnambool Table Tennis Association at 9:58 AM, the students warmed up with a quick 10-15-minute practice before diving into matches against teams from Ararat, Mercy, Warrnambool, and Brauer. Both the Year 7 and Intermediate teams competed with great energy and fairness, showcasing commendable sportsmanship throughout the day. While victory wasn't ours this time, the students played with pride and enjoyed every moment of the experience. The team returned to school after 4 PM, tired but smiling—having made memories and friendships across the region.

What's new in the AG VIEW











Wednesday 30th August, after much waiting for rain and crops to emerge, we were finally able to meet the agronomists in some crops. Students were greeted by 3 agronomists who work for Driscoll Ag, each having a different path to reach their career goals. Students were given a presentation on the process of looking at crops, what abnormalities need attention and the process after that (spraying). The conditions were cooler, and the students did a great job interacting with the agronomists.

Wednesday 6th and 13th August, students were completing more fencing on the top oval. This project has taken some time, and the students have done a great job, from learning through teamwork and trial and error, has come up very well. By the end of the term (between other projects and excursions) we will have completed all the necessary fencing require on the oval.







Wednesday 20th August we visited Marnoo to the Victorian State Merino Field Day. Students were given the opportunity to listen to several leaders in the merino industry and learn the key aspects to look at when purchasing merino rams.

Try A Trade Day Pathways

Expo in Horsham 2025



This year's expo had over 40 displays for the students to gather information from. During the few hours at the expo there was a lot of information for the students to gather, explore and to look at. They took this opportunity to chat with stall holders, receive pamphlets for employment pathways and options for university or other educational pathways, with lots of giveaways.

They all had a opportunity at trying some different trades, such as brick paving / build a toolbox, plumbing pipes together, with Ambulance Victoria- learning to resuscitate the Annie doll with CPR instruction and using AED, as well as naming the seeds from Dalki Garringa Nursery, just to name a few. Students had the opportunity to discuss different career pathways with the vendors like, Bunnings, Vic Police, Army, CFA, Forest Management / Land care, and skills invest with different apprenticeship opportunities. They also had a try at the virtual reality headset as well as getting some exercise on the smoothie bike.

Highlights for the students were the hands-on activities, seeing community members and students from different schools that they have built friendships with. Having a go at the Vic Police grip test, trying on the army backpack and fitness test, the cyber safety talk and warming up with a hot chocolate on a cold day.

Thank you, Goolum Goolum for a fun day out.









Clay Target Shooting



On Thursday, 14th August, Claire Scott, Arley Perry, Lewis Nicholson, Thomas Jess, William Hodder, Edward Redford, Callum Reading, Catherine Monument, and Murray Hart, along with parents, journeyed to the Horsham Clay Target club to compete in the Northwest Zone School Students Clay Target Championships. This was our first involvement in this sport for many years, and the team had spent time at Callawadda Clay Target Club under the instruction of Col Dunn and other members, preparing for the event. The competition involved two rounds of 10 targets. William Hodder was our most successful shooter, finishing third with a score of 14/20 in the Junior Boys competition, and he will now journey to Echuca on the 1st September to compete in the State Championships. Claire Scott was our next best with a score of 12, finishing 4th in the Senior Girls. Our Junior Boys team finished 4th overall.

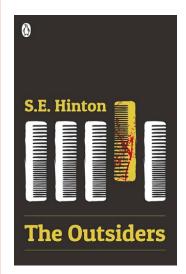
Our results were: Claire Scott 14, Arley Perry 4, Lewis Nicholson 10, Thomas Jess 9, William Hodder 14, Edward Redford 11, Callum Reading 9. A big thank you to Col Dunn and his helpers at Callawadda Gun Club, Catherine Monument, and all the parents who supported the students.

Year 10 English

Classics Showdown – Year 10 English

It's a battle of the classics in year 10 English, with 10A and 10B reading two of the most classic English books you could think of.

10A English – The Outsiders



Which class will enjoy their book more?

10B English – Animal Farm

On the other side of the fence, 10B is reading George Orwell's Animal Farm, with a similar goal of uncovering the author's messages around power, corruption and the importance of education.

Set on a farm, this classic book follows a collection of barnyard animals as they overthrow the rotten humans who have kept them down for too long. As new leaders in the farm form, corruption, manipulation and dissent grows.



Music students

Friday 8th August saw our music students down at the Stawell Town Hall working with visiting students from Horsham College, Phoenix College and Ballarat High School. We had a band of 70 students for the day, and with the support of teachers from each school the students impressed us all with their ability to maintain their focus throughout out the day. The highlight of the day came in the delivery of an excellent performance for audience made up of groups from Stawell West Primary, Skene St Special School and a number of family and friends.



VCE News

Term 3 Study Break Sessions for Unit 3 & Unit 4 Students

Students are expected to attend the onsite sessions to refine their exam skills and consolidate subject content. All presenters are high achievers from past exams through the Connect Program, and these sessions will be highly beneficial for our Unit 3 and 4 students.

In addition, there will be other subject-based onsite classes and exam practice sessions. Please stay tuned and ensure you attend the required sessions. With the VCE exams fast approaching, teachers are working extremely hard to cover the content and equip students with the best possible learning strategies and subject knowledge. We highly appreciate their dedication to supporting our students.

Date	Time	Subject	Presenter
Monday 29/09/2025	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	VCE Business Management	Kiana Dimovski
	12 PM – 2PM	VCE Maths Methods	James Morton
	2:30 PM – 4:30 PM	VCE Physical Education	Samuel Scroggie
Tuesday 30/09/2025	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	VCE General Maths	Anthony Yong
	12 PM – 2 PM	VCE Legal Studies	Chloe Warmington
Thursday 02/10/2025	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	VCE Physics	Nathan Betros
	12 PM – 2 PM	VCE Psychology	Sofia Gravier
	2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	VCE Biology	Sofia Gravier

Wellbeing Support

As exams approach, students may also experience academic stress. Headspace has kindly offered wellbeing sessions to help students unwind and learn practical strategies for managing exam-related pressure.

Next Wednesday at lunchtime, activities will include Just Dance, video games, and muscle relaxation sessions.



Students really enjoyed the last brain break activities!

YEAR 10 FOOD - INDEPENDENT LIVING

In week 4 of term 3 the class participated in cheese tasting. We did this for a few reasons: Nobody knows if they like or dislike a cheese if they haven't tasted it and students can see if a cheaper priced cheese is preferable over an expensive cheese. The Community brand tasty cheese rated higher for the students than the Mersey Valley cheese. Surprisingly, most of the students liked the lactose free cheese as well. Students had to comment on the aroma, appearance, taste, texture and give a rating out of 5. It was great

to see students trying different cheeses.

Mrs Prior



HHD visit Marrang Early Learning Center

Tuesday 19th August, Year 11 HHD class visited the early learning center as part of their studies. Students were spread across the 6 different rooms to observe the different activities in space and witness how these activities can shape the development of each child. SSC students were watching how activities were able to grow the social, intellectual, emotional and physical development. The SSC students interacted with the staff and young children and learning how young kids act very differently around trusted adults compared to SSC students who have just walked in.

It was great to witness the students sharing what they observed in the rooms across the different ages and that how the young kids were all so excited for food time.

We were so thankful to the staff and parents for allowing our class to visit the center as part of our studies, and as always well done to our SSC students who upheld our school values very well.



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











IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2025

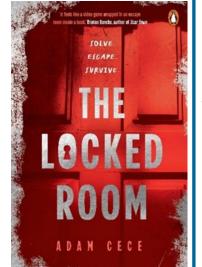
25/8/25-29/8/25—Year 11 2026 Subject Selection Interviews 1/9/25-5/9/25—Year 10 2026 Subject Selection Interviews 11/9/25—Staff Professional Development Day—**PUPIL FREE DAY** 12/9/25—27/9/25—2025 China Trip

Attendance Matters
Every student. Every day.

19/9/25—Last Day of Term 3

6/10/25—First Day of Term 4





Book of the Week

The Locked Room Author: Adam Cece

The clock is ticking....

Andy wakes up in a locked room with no memory of how he got there. There are no windows, a countdown clock and a green door. There are also three other people – Chad, his bully from school, Gabrielle Lee, the queen of the popular girls and Nameless Girl, because no one can remember her name and she refuses to tell them.

They all go to the same school and now have les than an hour to figure out how to get out of this room together, which they do. The only problem is the door leads to another room and another puzzle to solve, and then another room and another.

As they work their way through the rooms they begin to learn a lot about themselves and each other, but can they figure out who is behind this maze, and what will they find at the end?