

The Southern Star

Southern Cross Grammar

Principal

Mr Andrew Ponsford

Walking around the school often provides me with the greatest joy and a very welcome break from the customary meeting schedule.

Here is a little of what I have experienced and enjoyed over the last 12 hours:

- Noting the success of students in the Science Talent Search.
- The engagement of Year 9 students as they enthusiastically prepare for next week's State Robotics Championships.
- The dedication and focus of students in classrooms.
- The many polite and warm greetings I receive from students

The very pleasant smells that emanate from the Food Technology room— congratulations to the Year 7 students! The ample praise heaped on our students by MS Ambassador, Maree Thompson at the F-4 Assembly. The initiative and social conscience shown by a Year 10 student seeking to making a difference in Cambodia. The participation of Year 4 students at the state-wide Mathematics competition.

One of the real perks of my job is to witness the very positive manner staff and students go about their business.

Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Ms Louisa Rennie

Subject selection

Our current Year 10 and 11 students have participated in their Subject Selection interviews and begun to secure their future pathways. This is an important time in the lives of our Senior students and we have encouraged them to make good decisions about the pattern of study they seek to follow in Year 11 and 12. There is no set pattern, it should and must be unique for each student. Our role is to support, guide and advise our students as to what is available and to assist them in their transition from school to tertiary education and the workforce. Planning is integral to success.

So what did our Senior students learn through this process that we can share with our current Year 9 students? Parents are encouraged to use the points below to initiate a discussion at home. Such conversations will prepare our Year 9 students well and assist them to make well informed decisions about their future.

- What are your strengths? What sort of subjects will allow you to perform well?
- What subjects will allow you to demonstrate an attitude toward learning that will help you to achieve your life and career goals?
- What sort of careers interest you? It is ok if you don't have a clear pathway yet – that is why we are beginning the process!

- What are the pre-requisites or requirements to gain a place in your preferred university course?
- What jobs will you qualify for when you complete the course?
- Who can you call upon in your personal network of family, friends, teachers and associates to assist you to build your path?
- What are the pre-requisites or requirements to gain employment in your preferred future occupation?

We look forward to meeting with parents of Year 9 students on Thursday 24 August. Next week, we will begin the process by initiating homeroom conversations with Year 9's students who will begin to prepare their pathway into the Senior school and beyond.

STEM News

Rajnish Ram

Congratulations to Elaf Elsheikh, Taylor Stoitsis and Qaem Syed on representing the school in the Science Talent Search (STS) under the STEM initiative at Southern Cross Grammar. The Science Talent Search was founded in 1952 and the program encourages students to express their scientific talent through various competitions. Three students from SCG took part in the STS photography competition, where they could express their knowledge of 'The Future Earth' through photographs. Results of the competition will be announced later this month.



Head of Junior School

Ms Romina Pimpini

With a bumper-term of events and activities in the Junior School, this week we look forward to the PFA F-4 Disco. This provides students with an opportunity to mingle with their peers in a social atmosphere. I hope students and teachers alike have been practising their dance moves for this exciting event.

This week our Assembly reminded us about the important role we play in our society – an in particular, how we can help others. 2LH led our Assembly and focused on the *MS Readathon* and *The Great Book Swap*.

Looking ahead to Book Week (21-25 August), students were encouraged to donate a pre-loved book to 'swap' on 25 August. Monies raised will be donated to remote indigenous communities for the purchase of literacy resources for young students.

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They also ignited our community spirit to be involved in the MS Readathon in 2017. Our special guest, Ms Maree Thomson, works as an ambassador for MS. She spoke about how MS has effected her life and the changes she has had to make to deal with the illness. Further information can be found at <https://www.msreadathon.org.au/>. Students also shared their understanding about Multiple Sclerosis and how some had been touched by this in their own family.



2LH were joined by Ms Maree Thomson, an ambassador for MS and led a community-feel assembly this week. Congratulations 2LH, you should be very proud of your work!

It's not too late to register - Students at SCG have already raised \$471 for MS, what a great effort! Join the SCG Team and start raising money to help people living with MS. Don't forget, you can include your nightly reading on your book list. If you need further information, please contact us through library@scg.vic.edu.au.

Next week's assembly will be led by the Years 3s and has a theme of *The Big Picture*. Who knows what we will learn about next...?

The Great SCG Book Swap



Imagine not being able to borrow books from your school. Imagine not having a local library to go to. This is the reality of children in remote Indigenous communities. We can help. The Great Book Swap is a fantastic way to support children in remote indigenous communities who don't have access to books.

The aim is to improve literacy levels and instil a love of reading by using the funds raised during the Great Book Swap to purchase over 20,000 culturally appropriate books for these communities. This is for the whole school (Foundation to Year 11) and we'd love to get donations for a wide range of interests and age groups. Students will have an allocated time to visit the Great Book Swap on **Friday 25 August**.

All you need to do is donate a loved book to the school by **Thursday 24 August** and then purchase a preloved book on the day of the swap for a gold coin donation. Please place your book donations in the tub at reception.

More updates to come in the last three weeks of the program in the lead up to regional performance day.

Tournament of Minds

Sheridan Jarvis

During Term Three there is a special buzz at SCG in and around the Year 5 and 6 classrooms for the first six weeks. That's because it's Tournament of Minds time again for 2017.

This year SCG has three teams entered in the North Western Metropolitan competition to be held at La Trobe University on Sunday 27 August. Two of our teams have chosen the Engineering/Mathematics Challenge where they have to design and build a lottery machine that decides the fate of hopefuls that want



to join an Earth to Mars mission. The students have to work out the probability of millions of candidates, then modify the outcomes based on the suitability of the applicants.

The other team selected the Social Sciences (Humanities) challenge. Their task is to select two countries to merge together on a newly formed artificial island, then justify why they have chosen those countries, address any possible challenges the merger might have and explain to the judges how the two cultures can blend and live harmoniously.

All of the teams have been busily working on the scripts for their performances, as well as creating costumes, props, backdrops and preparing their presentations.

Let's Earn & Learn at SCG in 2017!

As a community, we have the opportunity to come together and earn resources for our school.

<https://www.woolworths.com.au/shop/discover/earn-and-learn>

If you shop at Woolworths, be sure to collect the stickers and drop them in at the Junior School Reception. With your help, we will be able to select an array of learning resources to enrich students' experiences at school, including: S.T.E.M, Science, Mathematics, English, Sport and Arts and Craft.



So, let's hope you can help us *Earn & Learn @ SCG!*

Safety Matters

A reminder to all students that the School Crossings are there to be used for your safety. In particular, students should be using the crossing when walking to and from our school grounds on Gourlay Road. This is a very busy road and your safety is most important.



Parents and Carers, we ask for your support in this matter – please speak with your child/ren, no matter their age, about the importance of road safety.