

The Southern Star

Southern Cross Grammar

Principal

Mr Andrew Ponsford

I hold the NZ All Blacks in high regard – although as a proud Aussie and a keen follower of sport they have, far too regularly, caused me some significant disappointments!!

With a proud and highly respected history dating back to 1903 in tests and an unprecedented win-loss record, the NZ All Blacks credit their success to an emphasis on excellence, pride in performance and commitment. These qualities have seen them produce the best record of any international sporting team and regularly outperform older and larger countries time and time again.

I would like to think that SCG, in our own small way, is emulating this approach through the following recent performances:

- An invitation to the State Final of the Victorian Robotics Championships;
- 4 awards at the Australian Mathematics competition (invitation only event);
- 5 Distinction awards at the Australian History competition;
- Student led initiatives – Mental Health week, Yr. 7 Maths event, Fitness and dance clubs, CAN project, Senior School Band Lunch-time sport training sessions;
- Athletics – 22 placings (9 firsts) from 49 events at the SSV District Sports;
- Music – 3 placings (2x 2nd, 1x 3rd and an Honorable mention) at the Royal South Street Music competition;
- Year 7 Girls' Basketball team – District champions;
- Galway Chess medals – 3 students received medals for high performance;
- Science Talent Search – 3 students received awards with one awarded a Certificate of Distinction and another awarded a Minor Bursary which is to be presented at an award ceremony at La Trobe University on 23 October.

A very warm welcome back to all students, parents and staff and my best wishes for a 'winning term'!

Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Ms Louisa Rennie

Preparing for Term 4

A warm welcome back to all students and families. Thank you to the many students who have spoken with me about their holidays and family time - I have enjoyed hearing about the experiences our students have had during the holiday period. In the senior school, I have witnessed many students quickly engaging in school routines and focusing on their learning and the looming exam season. To this end it is timely to reflect on learning habits.

Learning habits

Developing habits or routines is part of our everyday lives. Some habits take longer to form than others, and this is often linked to our sense of commitment to change or to act in a particular way.

On occasion we adopt some habits that are not helpful to our progress. These can make us feel stuck. They can also make us think that our potential is defined. It is good to know that these unhelpful beliefs can be changed. Over the next few weeks I encourage all students to reflect on the learning habits below. Do any of them resonate with you? What strategies might you draw upon to change them? What other habits do you exhibit that enable you to achieve your full potential?

1. Seeking perfection

Perfection is rare, perhaps impossible to achieve. We all learn in different ways and we are capable of producing outcomes to show that. Remember; you don't inspire others by being perfect. You inspire them by how you deal with your imperfections.

2. Fear of failure

A fear of failure can come from wanting to please others, particularly our parents. Failure is part of the learning experience. In fact, it is a necessary aspect of learning. Remember; failure is not the end point, it's a 'first draft'.

3. Blocking others out

Sometimes when things are not going well, we choose to block others out, to retreat to a 'safe place' where no-one will observe or cast judgment. Remember; this is unhelpful to our learning. Put in your best effort, and then ask for help.

4. Setting expectations

Setting expectations is critical for growth. High achievement always takes place within a framework of high expectations. Sometimes we allow self-talk that limits our capacity. Don't allow your negative self-talk to control who you are and what you can become. Remember; set high expectations and seek support to achieve them.

5. Disorganisation

Getting organised is an important aspect of being ready to learn. The school diary is a key tool for personal management. Use the diary to plan ahead, note due dates for assignments and upcoming tests, record daily homework entries and keep track of school events. Remember; if you fail to plan you are planning to fail.

2018 Subject selection

Year 12 students have now received written confirmation of subject choices for 2018. We are currently in the process of preparing written communication to parents of 2018 Year 11 students and these should be delivered next week. Subject requests for 2018 Year 10 students have been reviewed and are now being entered into the timetable. Once this has been done, we will then communicate with parents of our 2018 Year 10 students.

Term 4 Calendar

Our Term 4 Calendar is now available to download from the school website.

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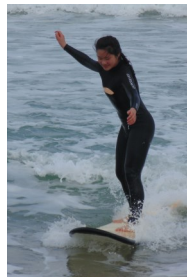
Head of Middle School

Ms Janis Coffey

Our first week in Term 4 in Middle School has been fueled with positivity. As part of the overall Positive Education approach at SCG, Mental Health Week initiatives have seen students practicing yoga, exploring Character Strengths and expressing gratitude. These are only some of the ways that students in MS are building important wellbeing skills and learning how to be resilient.



At the end of last term, Year 8 students participated in a rigorous outdoor camp at Anglesea where they were challenged as a group and tested their individual levels of determination. According to psychologist, Angela Duckworth, grit is one of the key personality traits that relate to long-term success in school outcomes. Students show grit when they keep at a task, stay aligned with their long-term goals and deal with obstacles along the way with resilience. Well done to the Year 8 students who showed perseverance and good-will at the 'Build a Village' camp.



General

Academic Support sessions will continue to be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a focus on Maths/Science and English/Humanities respectively. Students are to 'sign up' to these sessions with their Homeroom teachers.

All students are expected to wear the Summer Uniform and to have a hat during recess and lunch times throughout Term 4.

Head of Junior School

Ms Romina Pimpini

The Junior School has come to life this week with many year levels commencing their learning in a varied classroom environment.

Teachers have utilised their knowledge of best-practice in the classroom and changed around maneuverable furniture to provide stand-up desks, low-line desks and platform learning spaces, as well as various clusters and group sizes. This provides opportunity for teacher-focus groups, as well as sharing with peers, so that we may continue to individualise learning for students in a supported environment.

Want to know more? Be sure to ask your son/daughter. What a great discussion for the dinner table this would be to start the term.



Classrooms are certainly buzzing and plans are being finalised for up-coming excursions and incursions that will enrich learning and personal development. These include the Year 2 sleepover, Year 1 Dinner, Year 3-4 Camp and an excursion to Scienceworks for the Foundation students. What an eventful and memorable term it promises to be!

While many programs including Fin Strings and ensembles are hosted in the Junior School Learning Hub, we remind family members that walking through the JS building can be a distraction for students and their learning focus. Given this, could I ask that we limit our use of the Reception area as a thoroughfare, particularly in the mornings.



A reminder to all families that any personal items brought to school including drink bottles, lunch boxes, hats and uniform should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Some items that have been found on school grounds are currently held in the JS Office.



PFA NEWS

Parent Social Night - Saturday 28 October 2017 7pm, SCG JS Hub -\$25 per person, BYO Drinks and Nibbles

A fun filled night of bingo, trivia, competitions, and dancing. Create a table of 10, or register to join any team. An email will be sent out shortly with registration details. Email pfa@scg.vic.edu.au for more information

PFA Meeting Wednesday 18 October 2017 - 7pm

Our next meeting will be held in the Junior School Staff Room at 7pm next Wednesday. All are welcome to attend. If you have anything you would like added to the agenda please email pfa@scg.vic.edu.au

Volunteers Needed

If you have an hour or two to spare on a Tuesday morning we would love you to join our school banking team. Even if you can only help one or two Tuesdays a term we would love to hear from you.

We are also looking for someone to volunteer 1 hour a week and join our "New to You" Uniform Shop team. Please email pfa@scg.vic.edu.au if you can help.