

The Southern Star

Principal

Mr Andrew Ponsford

Building update

Our new VCE Centre continues to progress according to schedule with a current completion date just prior to the Christmas vacation period. As the layout and dimensions become more obvious we can start to appreciate the quality of the planning and effort in creating a building that will take our site to another level.

Many thanks to all concerned for your patience with changes in arrangements and in particular the safe transportation of our students to and from school. The Term 4 period is frequently a more dangerous time on our roads and your vigilance and patience over the next 7 weeks are important.

Year 2 Sleepover – this week

Very best wishes for this special activity that commences the camps program at Southern Cross Grammar. Lots of planning and special and fun events are planned and I warmly commend staff for this trust and confidence building activity. We hope our ‘youngest campers’ have a great time!

Focus Meeting – Responsible Cyber Usage in our Community

More detailed information will soon be provided in relation to this event. As we grow, such activities play an increasingly important role in linking the key players across the Southern Cross Grammar community in coordinating our support for our students. I very much encourage those with an interest to take part.

Advance warning – end of year events

Our end of year events are looming – Presentation Evening/Celebration of Learning, Student Orientations and activities related to 2018. There have been some changes particularly as a consequence of the introduction of the VCE and also the venue for our end of year events to accommodate larger groups more successfully. All of these are listed in the calendar and Heads of School will advise in more detail in the coming weeks.

Please refer to the Term 4 calendar to note key details in your family calendars – I do take this opportunity to flag that our Presentation Evening / Celebration events are compulsory for students and that the end of the school year for our students is now a staggered one for the first time.

Term 4 Calendar key dates

Wednesday 25 October

2018 Foundation Orientation

Monday 6 November

Mid-term break

Tuesday 7 November

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Monday 13 November

2018 F – Y4 Orientation

Tuesday 21 November

2018 Foundation Orientation

Monday 27 November

2018 Y10 – Y12 VCE Orientation

Tuesday 28 November

2018 Y10 – Y12 VCE Orientation

Thursday 30 November

2018 Y10 – Y12 VCE Orientation

Friday 1 December

2018 Y10 – Y12 VCE Orientation

Monday 4 December

2018 Y10 – Y12 VCE Orientation

Tuesday 5 December

2018 Y10 – Y12 VCE Orientation

Y10 – Y11 Final Day

Friday 8 December

F – Y9 Final Day

Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Ms Louisa Rennie

Embracing cultural diversity

At SCG we are proud of the fact that we have students and families from diverse backgrounds. At times when we reflect on diversity, we focus on difference. I ask all students to take a moment to shift their mindset and focus on similarity. We are here as we all place high importance on education and the learning experience. We are here to make a difference. We are here to learn together, in collaboration with one another, with and from one another. We are here to understand ourselves better and uncover our talents and passions. We are here to develop our skills as global citizens. We are all connected by our choices.

Sometimes when we read about cultural diversity we bear witness to the use of the word ‘tolerance’. To me this means one’s willingness to ‘put up with’ opinions or behaviours that exist that are different to our own. So the use of the word ‘tolerance’ in the context of cultural diversity doesn’t work for me. If we use the word ‘acceptance’, we allow diversity to exist, we acknowledge that diversity enriches us and our community. Acceptance gives validity to our cultural background, our family language, the colour of our skin, our religious affiliation. When we feel accepted, we are able to focus on our learning.

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Southern Cross Grammar

At SCG, we endeavour to provide a safe and inclusive school environment where all students feel welcome and secure. We do this by embracing and accepting diversity. It is the responsibility of all members of our community to uphold these values, as they underpin our school. This message is for all of us, but in particular to our senior students. I remind you of our student centred vision that represents our collective commitment to:

- Being ethical, compassionate and socially responsible global citizens;
- Having high aspirations, being curious about the world and demonstrating connectedness in a variety of ways;
- Understanding our own talents, strengths and weaknesses and being respectful of the rights and feelings of others.

I call on each of you to take responsibility for your words and your actions, understand that you have choices and exercise them wisely.

Run Club

Run Club has started well this term. We have new people joining us each week and it is great to have them involved and showing an interest in their personal fitness. We are always keen to have more students come along and run with us so I hope that students from Years 6 – 11 will come and see me for a permission form and join us soon! Each week we are trying to run a little further, building our stamina and capacity. *Harry Failli Y10*

Dance Club

Dance Club continues on Wednesday afternoons and we are making great progress. With two small routines already choreographed, the dance is looking amazing. We cannot wait to perform and cannot wait for audiences to see it. We are keen to continue the Club next year as an afterschool enrichment activity and hope to have the support of more interested students. If you would like to know more about the Dance Club for 2018, please come and see me. *Cameryn Morgan-Leheny Y10*

Deputy Principal—Head of Teaching and Learning

Mrs Julie Baud

Term 4 is a very busy term for students with exams commencing in just three weeks! All secondary year levels, Years 7-11, will complete their English exam on Friday 10 November with the remaining exams scheduled for the week after, as follows:

Years 10 and 11: Monday 13 to Thursday 16 November;
Years 7 to 9: Monday 13 to Friday 17 November.

An exam timetable will be included in next week's newsletter. Teachers will assist students with the preparation for these exams during classes over the next three weeks, but parents are also encouraged to provide support at home. This can be done in a number of ways. For example, by ensuring students have a quiet space to work, plenty of sleep, a healthy diet, regular meals, exercise during breaks and a regular homework and study routine.

Many of our Year 11 students will be completing Southern Cross Grammar's first external Year 12 exams in November, run by VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority). These students completed compulsory Trial Exams during the recent holiday break and are to be commended on their diligence and application. We wish them well as they prepare for these exams and their final Year 11 exams. An exciting time for Southern Cross Grammar!

I remind parents that when students are completing any VCE subject in Year 10, or their VCE in Years 11 and 12, attendance is extremely important. Documentation is required to support any absence, especially when students are absent and miss an assessment task. The only exception is when students are absent due to a school approved activity such as representing the school in Debating or sport. Leave for any purpose other than sickness should be applied for via the Head of Senior School or Head of Teaching and Learning.

Head of Middle School

Ms Janis Coffey

Finding Your Element

The students in Middle School are gearing up for the 2017 Passion Day occurring next Friday 27 October. Students are invited to dress up as someone they are inspired by or in attire that represents a preferred future career. With the MS Students finalising their subject selection choices for 2018, this is a topic that is at the forefront of our thinking. Passion is one of SCG's core principles and we put great emphasis on helping students to identify and connect with their passions. Sir Ken Robinson, an internationally recognised leader in the development of creativity, innovation, and human potential refers to this as *Finding Your Element*, the title of his book published in 2013. Robinson says that finding your element is a two-way journey, "an inward journey to explore what lies within you and an outward journey to explore opportunities in the world around you." Here are some questions that might help you find your element:

- What have been the most important influences and turning points in your life?
- Which aspects of your life engage you most?
- Which ones engage you least?
- Do you know what direction you want to move in?
- What would you like to do that you haven't tried yet?
- Why haven't you?

Understanding our own aptitudes is an important step in finding our element. That does not mean that we might not need to develop additional skills or find ways to cope with the blockades that exist in our path. Becoming knowledgeable about what we need to know and be able to do can help us achieve our long term goals.

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Olivia Capitanio, Year 8 student, reflected on a recent experience where she worked on developing skills in an area which is has both an aptitude and a passion. She wrote:

On the weekend of the second last week of school, I had the opportunity to participate in a workshop with Luka Lesson. It was really helpful and interesting as I learnt a lot of great tips for poem writing. I also learnt about acting when performing a poem, exercises to create poems, writing metaphors and including them into poems, sentence starters for poems and general writing tips. During the lesson, I created a poem and performed it which made me nervous however at the same time was fun. My favourite part of the workshop was learning how to perform a poem as incorporated acting and performing which I find enjoyable.

I commend Olivia for taking on this challenge and having a growth mindset about performing her own poem in front of an audience. Her poem was insightful and powerful and certainly had an impact on her audience. Congratulations, Olivia!

Other than aptitude, what else is important in finding our element? Steve Jobs, the late American entrepreneur and co-founder of Apple Inc., said that passion simply wasn't enough. According to Jobs, we need to also make a difference. "We're always talking about following your passion, but we're all part of the flow of history ... you've got to put something back into the flow of history that's going to help your community, help other people ... so that 20, 30, 40 years from now ... people will say, this person didn't just have a passion, he cared about making something that other people could benefit from." So, to all of the students in MS who are contemplating their future (and also what costume they will wear next Friday), consider how you will make a difference with your strengths and passions. I look forward to a most successful Passion-focused day next week.

Feed Your Brain

With study sessions and exams on the horizon, it is a timely reminder that students need good wholesome food to eat during the day at school. Many MS students come to school without food and are choosing to eat at home after school. Some are bringing sugar-filled goodies that spike energy levels and then are depleted before the end of the day. It is important for every MS student to bring fruit, veggies, wraps or other wholesome foods to keep our brains well fed. I realise we all struggle finding great ideas for lunches; therefore have a look at [this website](#) for some fresh (and healthy!) ideas.

Head of Junior School

Ms Romina Pimpini

We have certainly 'picked up the pace' after the start of term in the Junior School, celebrating Mental Health Week across Week 1. Students across the JS engaged in activities including Mindfulness and Movement with Mr Wildsmith, Yoga with Mrs Hedditch, as well as a Walk for Wellbeing led by Year 4 students.



Mia Cook, Rajiv Gordon, Veronica Kaszkiel, Angelica Krstevska, Megan Scott and Isabella Zammit began planning this event in Term 3 and demonstrated true leadership in their ability to work together, problem solve and share the workload. Congratulations to this team of hard-workers, who showed us that having a common goal and working together can be very successful!



While the aim of these activities was to connect with others, it certainly aroused strong team spirit in the Junior School. Congratulations to everyone who took part and took some time to 'check-in' with their classmates throughout the week.

This week at our JS Assembly, we announced our Term 4

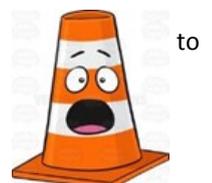


Class Captains. We look forward to these newly-appointed leaders making a real difference every day in the classroom environment.

Compliments to the many students who helped make these events a success in the Junior School. Your commitment to community and wellbeing was glowing!

Next week, we will celebrate as a whole school on Friday 27 October, where Passion Day will be the highlight for our shared celebrations.

Safety First: A reminder to all parents and carers that the car parks on site at SCG are Staff Car Parks. These should not be accessed during pick up and drop off times, as student traffic is high. So as to maximise safety at these times, we ask that families use the Coles carpark for safe parking and easy access school via the school crossing.



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Passion Day 2017 – “Learn From Each Other”

Miss Smart (New Generation Learning Coordinator)



The annual Southern Cross Grammar Passion Day is upon us. To celebrate the Passion Principle within SCG's New Generation Learning pedagogy, the purpose of Passion Day will be to foster experiences to “Learn from each other”. Years F-9 students will share in Buddy Passion Project

experiences that directly link to this theme and also have the opportunity to dress up for the day, in an outfit that represents an occupation they aspire to be in the future. This will certainly be a great talking point for students and staff alike!

The day will include the following:

- multi-aged Buddy Passion Projects (Junior and Middle School students to collaborate);
- Passion Day reflection assembly;
- attendance at school dressed up as an aspiring occupation (please be mindful that these costumes must be wearable to work productively within the classroom, as a portion of the day will be regular programming – this will also mean taking into consideration if your child has Sport on this day).

Senior students (Years 10 and 11) will be taking part in their regular scheduled classes and will have an opportunity to reflect on the Passion Principle during homeroom.

Passionate Pablo would like to thank you for your support of our Passion Day program.

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

Volunteers Needed

If you have a 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 also are 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 in anyway.

Galway Maths Olympiad

**Mrs Sarah Bagci, Mr Rajnesh Ram
And Mr Kim Hock Tan**

On Thursday 12 October, a selected group of students from Years 7 and 8 participated in the annual Galway Maths Olympiad. The event was hosted by Southern Cross Grammar and we were joined by students from various schools across Melbourne. It was a great opportunity for students to demonstrate their mathematical abilities and skills through different types of activities that were, the least to say, challenging. Our students did exceptionally well with our Year 7s taking first place and our Year 8s scoring a perfect score for the STEM Coding challenge.

The students were: Year 7: Rebecca Dimovska, Cindy Nguyen, Chinmay Patil, Antonio Magro, Jason Tran.

Year 8: Dan Mai, Marc Kravaris, Yusuf Zahran, Shiraz Mallah, Olivia Malek Jeffs.

Overall, the day was a successful attempt to bring together groups of students from across our district. Well done SCG on another amazing achievement!



MS Readathon

Thank you to all that participated in the MS Readathon.

All money raised is now due back at school so we can forward it on promptly.