

The Southern Star

Southern Cross Grammar

Principal

Mr Andrew Ponsford
Well Done

I wish to extend my congratulations to students from Years 7-11 on the manner in which they have approached the recent Exam period – there has been noticeable growth in terms of organisation and approach. Students and staff are to be warmly commended on this growth.

Best Wishes

Best wishes for the following new initiatives that will see our senior students involved in a Year 10/11 Formal to be held this Friday evening in South Melbourne. Involving parents and the voluntary attendance of almost all of our senior staff were significant for me.

Congratulations

Well done indeed to four of our Year 8 students on a most significant recent sporting achievement – The Year 8 Boys' Tennis team competed last week at the next round of competition following their Maribyrnong Division win in Term 1.

The Western Metropolitan Region final was played at the Geelong Tennis Club with Stefan Filippone, James Kojdovski, David Vuu and Joshua Rainbow making up the team. The boys recorded admirable wins against Strathmore Secondary College and Baden Powell College to advance to the final.

Unfortunately the boys were up against a strong Bayside Secondary College team and were defeated in the final. A runners up place in a state competition is an amazing achievement and the boys should be proud of their efforts.



My thanks to our Sports Co-ordinators – Mr Pell and Ms Panozzo on the rich array of opportunities in this area for the 2017 school year. Our students have certainly made the most of such occasions and thoroughly benefited and enjoyed the experiences.

Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Ms Louisa Rennie
Remembrance Day

Last Friday SCG commemorated Remembrance Day with an assembly on the lawn. Sincere congratulations to Liam Giacchi and Tahlia Balliet (Y9) for leading our community in such a fine way. Thank you Mr Ponsford for challenging us to reflect on the commitment and leadership exhibited by the unknown soldier. We are grateful for the fine musicianship of Mr Graham, Ms Sathiaseelan and Mr Perger.



Thank you to Kiana Ulloa and Marshall Bloom (Y9) for attending the assembly in Army Cadet uniform and offering a wreath in memory of fallen soldiers. Marshall's speech provided us all a chance to reflect on our school values;

“On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month 1918 the guns fell silent upon the western front and World War One was finally at an end. From that day it was decided, world wide, that the 11th of November was a day to remember those who died for their country. What does Remembrance Day mean to me? As most of you know I'm a part of the Australian Army Cadets which I joined late last year. Through my experience at Cadets I have learnt many different things such as how to wear and iron my uniform and how to survive out in the field but the most important thing I have learnt so far are the values of a soldier. The Army Values are Courage, Initiative, Respect and Teamwork.

Courage is both moral and physical, we learn to act in the best interests of the nation and the Army; including the moral strength and professionalism to act with compassion and mate-ship.

Initiative is needed to explore opportunities and embrace innovation so we are always improving.

Respect is necessary for ourselves, our colleagues, our community and our history of service. Soldiers earn the right to wear the Rising Sun badge and the responsibility to uphold the values and traditions it symbolises.

Teamwork is about supporting each other and looking out for one another.

Many of these values give me a better understanding of just how important Remembrance Day is because it took the ultimate sacrifice of this nation's soldiers to make our country the way it is today. The Army Values helped them live out their commitment.

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I can relate some of the Army Values to the Vision of our school. The following Southern Cross Grammar attribute statements mean the most to me:

- Being an ethical, compassionate & socially responsible global citizen
- Accepting responsibility & demonstrating accountability for my learning
- Taking risks & valuing mistakes as an opportunity to learn
- Having high aspirations, being curious about the world & demonstrating connectedness in a variety of ways
- Being respectful of the rights & opinions of others
- Being resilient, determined and persevering through adversity
- Demonstrating leadership & entrepreneurial qualities.

Growing up through life is about trial and error, you need to stay determined and passionate about your future so you can persevere through difficulties. By adopting these qualities we can all be ethical and proud citizens of society and our school." *Marshall Bloom Y9*

Summer school study programs

Our Senior students crossed the exam finish line well today and can now begin to look ahead and plan for 2018. There are a number of different summer school options available to students in early January 2018. As many of our senior students know, classroom time is precious and our teachers work hard to maximise the use of classroom time to deliver the curriculum content. Intensive Summer School programs provide students with key insights into the learning expectations for a variety of subjects (studies), and their respective assessment components. If students / families are interested in more information, please come and see us for a brochure.

Deputy Principal—Teaching and Learning

Mrs Julie Baud

Congratulations to all of our Year 7-11 students who have been studying and sitting exams over the past week. All students are to be commended on the manner in which they have approached these exams at all levels. Many of our senior students have also completed Southern Cross Grammar's first external Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) exams as well. While this was a somewhat challenging experience, it has provided them with an insight into what to expect next year in Year 12.

A big thank you also to the parents who have supported these students during this time. This is another example of how important it is for our families and the school to work together to help ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. This relationship is critical as we all know.

The 2018 VCE Orientation Program will commence on Monday 27 November for all 2018 Year 11 and 12 students. During this time, the 2018 Year 10 students will continue their normal Semester 2 classes and also attend classes for the VCE subject they will be studying next year. Further details will be passed on to the 2018 Year 10-12 students and their families about the Orientation Program next week.

Our younger students should also be congratulated on the manner in which they have continued their learning this past week despite the changes to the timetable and the other things that have been happening like the Orientation mornings. They are very fortunate to have been able to participate in a range of learning activities such as Robotics, an excursion to Scienceworks and problem-solving activities with our Mathematics Consultant, Rob Vingerhoets. The big smiles and excitement on the students' faces is lovely to see and is evidence of the level of engagement in their learning.

Head of Middle School

Ms Janis Coffey

Taking Time Out from Technology

Several years ago I had an opportunity to see neuroscientist, Baroness Susan Greenfield, talk about the effects of technology on the brain. Our brains are incredibly adaptive to our environment; they change and shape according to our surroundings. Greenfield warned that an environment which encourages a short attention span, with little emphasis on empathy or interpersonal communication and which is partially addictive or compulsive, can shape who we become. While I will be the first to say that technology enables communication and connection in many ways, today's screen culture is also one that can be a detriment to our wellbeing and our learning. So how do we get the benefit of living in a digital world while at the same time avoid the detrimental impacts to our lives? That question, is one that researchers, teachers, parents and students have difficulty answering. So, if the issue of 'screen time' or phone obsession is relevant in your home, try discussing the following:

- ◆ When do I have difficulty managing distractions?
- ◆ When do I take time out from technology?
- ◆ What are the reasons I reach for my phone/iPad? Is it boredom, procrastination or is it purposeful?
- ◆ Are there games I play that are time-wasters?
- ◆ Am I content with my amount of screen time/phone use or it is causing problems for me?
- ◆ Are the people I'm communicating with real friends or are they just an audience on a social media platform?

We live in a digital world and that isn't going to change any time soon. Technology can be incredibly helpful to us. So our job is to learn how to manage our technology use. After all, technology does not have to interfere with us using our imagination, connecting with people we love and care about and being able to focus on what's really important.

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Locks

It is important that all Middle School students have locks on their lockers. If students are missing a lock on their locker, please ensure you have one put on by the end of next week. Keeping valuables safe is important and being responsible for your belongings shows maturity.

Head of Junior School

Ms Romina Pimpini

The SCG Student Centred Vision is alive!



Recently, we have had many examples of students living the SCG Student Centred Vision.

In the past week in the Junior School, we have attended our Year 3 and 4 Camp held at Anglesea, hosted our annual Orientation Morning Program and run an excursion, as well as an assembly.



On each of these occasions, it was evident that students were being kind and helpful, welcoming new students to our school, *understanding self* when taking part in new activities with new teachers. At camp, students were *taking risks* and *being fair and helpful* as students enjoyed Jungle Gym, Rock Climbing, Hut Building and scrumptious meals.

Next week, we look forward to celebrating our Year 4s and their graduation of the Junior School in a special assembly to be held at 2:00pm on Wednesday 22 November, in the JS Hub.

Please note:

While we respectfully share Lancefield Drive with our neighbours, parents are reminded that the entrance gate to St George Preca is to be kept clear at all times. Parking on the nature strip, as well as blocking access to their place of work is not only illegal, but inconsiderate on our part.



Please be encouraged to utilise the Coles Car Park – it provides excellent space, as well as an opportunity to walk to school and teach children how to responsibly use the School Crossing, as provided.

Where possible, please schedule appointments for your child outside of school hours. Interruptions to the learning program can effect children's continuity in skill development, as well as the classroom environment, for both them and their teachers.

PFA—School Banking

Important dates for 2017:

- 21 November - last day for redeeming rewards,
- 28 November - last day for school banking.

Banking will resume in 2018 in the second week of school.

Thank you to all SCG families who have supported School Banking in 2017. This has raised over \$1000 this year. The PFA will put this towards the current fundraising goal –an outdoor shade structure.

MS Readathon Update

Ms Dina Lira

In the conclusion of the MS Readathon this year, we would like to congratulate two students. Congratulations to Oliver P from FBU for reading the most books (total of 64!) and also to Elisa V from 3CS for raising the most money (\$362!). Super effort guys! Join us in 2018 as we undertake the MS Readathon once again.

Performing Arts Showcase

Mr Robert Graham

There's only one more week to go before the upcoming Performing Arts Showcase on Thursday November 23. Our talented students are looking forward to presenting a quality night of entertainment to our school community.

If you are interested in attending this event, there are still limited seats available. Please contact the Music Department with any further enquiries, music@scg.vic.edu.au

School Colour Fun Run

Friday 24 November 2017

4.00pm-7.00pm

Boronia Drive Reserve

10 Boronia Drive, Hillside



How to register?

All students are asked to register using this link <http://ems.gs/3Aub0cibehj> and pay the \$10 Entry fee via PayPal. We are seeking volunteers to help with the event so if you are able to support, please express your interest as part of the registration process and we will be in touch. All students who register go into the draw for an iPad generously donated for Telstra Watergardens.

Ms Hannah Radburn will be selling raffle tickets next week after school outside the JS Hub. The raffle will also be drawn at the Fun Run with prizes being an iPad for the winning child and an iPhone for the winning Adult.