

The Southern Star

Principal

Mr Andrew Ponsford

This week, I am reminded by the wisdom of the African saying, *"It takes a whole village to raise a child."*

This Nigerian proverb, conveys the African worldview that emphasises the values of family relationships, care, self-sacrificing concern for others, sharing, and even hospitality. As a community we are only as strong as the example we provide and the support and respect we offer to ourselves, those close to us and others. In one or two recent instances this has been sadly missing.

As a community we all have rights and responsibilities. One or two recent incidents, are the motivation behind my comments today. We must remember that, even in the most challenging and emotive situations, there is not excuse for unkind actions and rudeness.

For the benefit of all, I share the following key (School policy) expectations which apply equally to all members of this community.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Rights of Students

- To learn in a friendly, encouraging, secure, supportive and positive environment.
- To be respected, to care about self, and to be cared for by others.
- To be heard and be able to express opinions with appropriate manner and timing.
- To know what is acceptable behaviour and the consequences of unacceptable behaviour.

Responsibilities of Students

- To help make the school a happy and safe place and to care about other people in the school.
- To follow school rules.
- To be responsible for own work and actions.
- To care about the school and its equipment.

Rights of Teachers

- To work in a pleasant and safe environment and to achieve job satisfaction.
- To have support from within SCG, including from other members of staff, if required.
- To have full support from parents and the school community for the school Code of Behaviour.
- To be involved in a collaborative decision-making model within the school curriculum and organisation.
- To be treated with courtesy by all.

Responsibilities of Teachers

- To promote maximum learning in all students.
- To encourage acceptable patterns of behaviour in children.

- To see that this policy is consistently implemented throughout the school and to:
 - accept school rules and encourage all others to accept them.
 - formulate a set of classroom rules in conjunction with the students.
 - To periodically review this policy.
 - To act as role models in use of language, dress and grooming.

Rights of Parents

- To have information on school processes and school curricula.
- To be able to participate in school programs and decision-making.
- To expect consistent approaches to the code of behavior implemented throughout the school.
- To be shown respect at school and expect that personal property will be cared for.

Responsibilities of Parents

- I / we encourage good behaviour habits in children.
- To encourage children to accept school rules.
- To provide support to the school to put this policy into place.
- To provide information about relevant home circumstances which may affect school attitudes and learning.
- To recognise a shared responsibility for working towards the achievement of Southern Cross Grammar's goals.
- To treat all members of the SCG community with courtesy and respect.

Student and Staff SWAT teams

As part of our continuing strategy to understand needs and enhance our actions, activities and structures, feedback is being sought through these two action groups.

As part of this school-wide strategy, the School Executive is happy to receive any parent/carer feedback. This should be directed to the respective Head of School via the following email – admin@scg.vic.edu.au

All communications will be received and treated in strict confidence.

Board Nominations and Annual General Meeting

Advance notice is given that the School Company Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the evening of Monday 23 April 2018.

Company members have this week been asked to nominate other company members to stand for positions on the School Board. When required elections are held at the AGM with only company members eligible to vote on these important appointments. Any company member who did not receive the nomination form or require assistance in completing the form should email board@scg.vic.edu.au.

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Staffing 2018 – an update

The end of one term and the imminent commencement of another, always brings some change, in this case relatively minor. It also heralds some exciting new appointments which I also take this opportunity to share with you.

Emma Hewett - Ms Hewett has been recently offered her 'dream role' as an Education Officer at the NGV (National Gallery of Victoria). We commend Emma on this achievement which will commence as soon as practicable for her and SCG. I know that Emma has very much enjoyed her time and in many ways this decision was with 'considerable mixed feelings'.

Maree Newnham—A few weeks ago we received advice from Ms Newnham of her intention to resign from the staff of SCG at the end of the first week of the upcoming break. Maree is currently considering a range of career options and with this we wish her every success.

Student Services Team

School Counsellor

Learning Support – Integration Aides

The Executive Team has been busy over the last few weeks interviewing new members of staff – as a consequence of the departure of Mrs Evans at the end of 2017 and the relocation of Mrs Knight to Queensland. I have pleasure in welcoming and introducing:

Ms Shellie Cooper (School Counsellor) as well as two Learning Support - Integration Aides – Ms Lisa Denys and Ms Maddison Attard.

As previously advised, we wish **Ms Jane Barnes** our very best wishes for maternity leave commencing next term and for the birth of her first child!

IT Manager

Our IT needs, systems and enhancements are expanding rapidly and during the term we have undertaken an extensive search to identify the right person to complement the excellent remote work of Aleks Skrekovski, parent and provider of services since our commencement!

Mr Chris Mitchell will provide full-time, on-site services to staff and students from the commencement of Term 2.

Music Instrumental Program

In response to interest and growth, I welcome and introduce Ms Vivien Lee (Piano teacher) and Ms Jacqueline Wong (Woodwind teacher).

Opening of the VCE Centre – Friday 16 March

The Opening was an important moment to celebrate achievement, recognise the efforts of several members of the SCG community, principally Mr Andrew Borg who chaired the SCG Infrastructure (Building) Committee and to 'gather the SCG family', who over the last 7 years who have each played an important role in the growth and development of our school.

As hosts, our senior students were magnificent and compared the occasion with pride, enthusiasm and impressive confidence and warmth.

Here are a few reflections:

- It was great to meet all the people who have made such a profound commitment to the growth of Southern Cross Grammar. The student leaders spoke wonderfully and it was awesome to see many families here to celebrate the opening of the VCE Centre as a community. Ms Victoria D'Alton (Senior Teacher)
- It was great to meet the people behind the scenes of Southern Cross Grammar in recognising and celebrating the progression of this school. Ellie Codman, Y11
- I felt the official opening of the VCE Centre was a fantastic way to mark the significance of SCG growth and interact with members of our school community. Tori Merrin, Y12

New Logo for Southern Cross Grammar



SOUTHERN CROSS
GRAMMAR

The new logo for our school was launched in conjunction with the Opening of our VCE Centre last Friday.

Like all things, the School has grown and matured over the years, and it was considered appropriate to refresh our logo to reflect who we are today and to better symbolise our future.

The professional, fresh, and contemporary look, has received overwhelming support, whilst we believe still providing a key link to our past and the original logo. It is my intention to write to the SCG community shortly to explain our strategy in regard to uniform changeover which, as previously stated, is over time and in such a way not to financially impact current families.

Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Ms Louisa Rennie

F–Y12 House Cross Country Carnival

As you are aware, next Wednesday 28 March, all students from F–Y12 will participate in the annual Southern Cross Grammar House Cross Country Carnival at the Springside Complex, adjacent to our school property. This is an annual event and all students are expected to attend.

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- 8:30am: Morning roll call in Homerooms
- 8:35am: F-Y4 move to the Springside complex
- 8:45am: F-Y4 Cross Country event
- 9:55am: F-Y4 return to Southern Cross Grammar
- 10:05am: Y5-Y12 move to the Springside complex
- 10:10am: Y5-Y12 Cross Country event
- 1:30pm: Y5-Y12 return to Southern Cross Grammar

All students will race in their age groups.

Age	Distance
5 year old	1 lap of Springside complex
6 year old	1 lap of Springside complex
7 year old	2 lap of Springside complex
8 year old	3 lap of Springside complex
9/10 year old	2km (2 laps of Cross Country track)
11-18 year old	3km (3 laps of Cross Country track)

All students are expected to arrive at school in full PE uniform, wearing a plain coloured t-shirt in their respective House colour. Extra House Spirit points will be awarded to student wearing a House coloured t-shirt. We also encourage students to show House spirit through the wearing of other accessories in House colours (streamers, ribbons, beads, ties, etc.). **Please note: face paint, lipstick, body paint and coloured hair spray are not permitted.**

Students in Y5-Y12 are required to bring their own healthy food for recess and lunch and plenty of water to sustain their energy throughout the carnival. They are also required to bring their hat and sunscreen.

We look forward to a successful 2018 Cross Country Carnival and developing our House Spirit as a growing school.

Road Smart

All Y10 students will participate in a Road Smart program tomorrow. Road Smart is a new road safety education and training program designed to build the knowledge, skills and behaviours for safe driving among young drivers. Road Smart is funded by the Victorian Government and provides beginner drivers with a broader understanding of:

- the causes of road trauma, how the safe system works and the effect of kinetic energy in crashes
- the Towards Zero vision and actions that can be undertaken within a safe system to prevent road trauma
- developing strategies to reduce their own personal risk as road users
- the Graduated Licensing System and the importance of a staged approach to learning to drive
- developing an effective partnership between the supervising driver and learner throughout the learning process

- the rationale underlying important safety related requirements and responsibilities the importance of vehicle safety for young drivers.

Further to this, Southern Cross Grammar will offer all Y10 students the opportunity to engage in a two day Driver Education Program in Term 2. The program caters for Pre-Learner drivers and Learner drivers and offers a blend of theory and practice. Student attendance in the program is not compulsory, however we encourage all students to attend. It is a time for learning, gaining valuable skills and developing positive peer relationships. Information about this opportunity will be forwarded to Y10 students and families shortly.

Deputy Principal, Head of Teaching and Learning

Mrs Julie Baud

Over the past two weeks, our teachers have been preparing Progress Reports that will be ready for collection on Thursday 29 March, the last day of Term 1. The format of these reports will be similar to the Progress Reports families received in 2017. Teachers this year are reporting on each student's 'Knowledge and Understanding', 'Skill Development', 'Attitude to Learning' and 'Social Behaviours'. There is a brief explanation of each category below and on the actual reports.

- Knowledge and Understanding: the course content and the application of knowledge
- Skill Development: the acquisition of subject-based skills
- Readiness for Learning: homework completion, organization, preparedness for class, level of engagement in class
- Social Behaviours: attitude, interaction with peers and teachers

Reporting on these areas complements and strengthens our vision for our students to aim high, strive to do their best, question and explore, problem solve, listen and also to be respectful. It has been pleasing to see that a large percentage of students have been working hard and engaged in their learning. Congratulations to many! The small number who receive feedback indicating there is room for improvement should heed their teachers' advice and return next term with a plan for improved success.

These reports are designed to be a snapshot of student progress during Term 1 and to provide some feedback prior to the Student Progress Interviews early in Term 2. Students' academic achievements, the results a student has achieved, will be reported on in the Semester 1 Report to be distributed at the end of Term 2. For the benefit of our families, a document outlining our reporting and assessment practices across the school will accompany the Term 1 Progress Reports. These reports will be ready for collection by parents/carers from the Junior School Hub from **3:00-4:30pm** on Thursday 29 March.

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Southern Cross Grammar

Our team also works to extend student learning and ensure that students are provided with adequate challenge. Our Middle School Mantra is, 'High Challenge, High Support'. It is our vision that every student in the MS is presented with a challenge in their learning, something to grapple with and offered an opportunity for growth. With the support of talented and skilled teachers and professionals, we can ensure that this vision comes to life in every Middle School classroom!

Head of Middle School

Ms Janis Coffey

Student Support in Middle School

Teachers at SCG work with students to develop their academic abilities, their social skills and their emotional agility. While some teachers are experts at teaching advanced mathematics and others are committed to supporting students' physical proficiencies, our Student Support Team in Middle School works with students on a range of areas in which students need assistance. A number of teachers in the MS work with groups of students to assist them with language development or their competency in numeracy. We also have a range of skills within our Student Services Team who bring the skillsets and expertise in speech therapy, occupational therapy, counselling and integration support. These professionals bring depth and knowledge to share with our teaching team which ultimately benefits the academic life of our students here at SCG. Working together as a team is an important aspect to ensuring that our students get the very best care and attention at School.

Our professional team can bring specialised programs and provide assistance with:

- Children with handwriting, reading and spelling difficulties,
- Students with fine motor or hand-eye co-ordination difficulties,
- Social Skills group programs for children,
- Children or adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and
- Students with organisation, attention or sensory processing difficulties
- Children with language delays
- Students with hearing loss, listening or auditory processing difficulties.

Head of Junior School

Ms Romina Pimpini

Last week our commitment to the *NO WAY!* Bullying campaign helped us reiterate that our community is an important factor in helping us develop our understanding and appreciation for each other. This has been more broadly reflected in learning for our Year 4s.

In Humanities the Year 4 curriculum is focusing on people that make a difference in our community and types of jobs in our community. To provide experiential learning, parents of Year 4s have shared their work and aspects of their career that help members of the community in a forum setting. This has engaged students and raised some questions including;

- How will I make a difference in my community when I am older?
- How can my learning and work help others?

This *'takes a village to raise a child'* sentiment is certainly in action around the JS Hub.

A very warm thanks to the many parents who have given of their time to make this possible in Term 1 ~ we just

know it makes a difference to the children's learning.



Students of Year 4 have met with business owners, Scientists, Marketing Managers and even Optometrists – they have had their eyes on our SCG community, for sure!



School Photo Day 2018

Friday 20 April is our School Photos Day.

All students are expected to wear their winter uniform on this occasion, including Blazer from Years 3 – 12.



Further detailed information will be communicated via email to all families prior to the end of this term.

Please mark this important date in your calendar and diary so that everyone is best-prepared.

Ride2School

Students in Years F-9 are encouraged to choose an alternative to car travel to commute to school on this day. Students may wear their full PE uniform on this energy-filled day, complete with plain House colour t-shirt to engender House spirit.



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House points will be awarded for any student who:

- Rides their bike or scooter to school to their allocated House gate
- Rides or scoots safely wearing a helmet
- Wears a House Colour t-shirt with their PE uniform on the day



We look forward to all F-9 students and families actively taking part in this activity. Happy scooting and pedaling everyone!



Safety Reminder

Please be reminded that **driveways are not car parks** – not for one second, one minute or a moment in time.

Student safety is important to all of us, so appropriate use of roads and car parks around the school site should be a collective goal.



Coles Vouchers



We only have until the end of term to collect Coles vouchers! Vouchers can be earned at all Coles stores, Coles Online and Coles Express. Please ensure every voucher you earn is sent in to our School Reception by Thursday 29 March, so that we can maximise our chance to collect as much sports equipment for our students.

Sports News

Miss Jade Panozzo

Well done to the 14 Year 4-6 students who qualified for the Keilor Division Swimming Finals. This event was held yesterday at St Alban's Leisure Centre. All students are to be commended on their efforts especially with the difficult weather conditions. The students who qualified for this event were:

Sophie Fosnaugh	Megan Scott
Ashton Dessmann	Elisa Vigniuoli
Xavier Walker	Jasmine Lim
Taylah Roberts	Tyana Su
Tegan Su	Tomislav Kvesic
Josie Woollard	Saanvi Venkat
Sakari Clarke-Oldani	Kristy Pappaluca

If students came first or second in their individual events or first in a relay event they progress through to the Regional Championships which is to be held next week in Geelong. Well done to the following students on the outstanding results they achieved:

Jasmine Lim- 50m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke - 1st

Jasmine Lim, Taylah Roberts, Tyana Su and Tegan Su - 11 years 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay- 1st

Jasmine Lim, Josie Woollard, Saanvi Venkat and Sakari Clarke-Oldani- 4 x 50m Open Medley Relay - 1st

Kristy Pappaluca, Sakari Clarke-Oldani, Saanvi Venkat and Josie Woollard - 12/13 years 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay- 2nd



House Cross Country Wednesday 28 March

Mr Michael Pell and Miss Jade Panozzo

Parents and carers are welcome to attend the Springside Recreation Reserve to watch and encourage all students. This will begin from 8.45am for the Foundation to Year 4 students and Year 5 to 12 students starting at approximately 10:00am.

If parents wish to assist in any way, please email Michael Pell on mpell@scg.vic.edu.au

PFA News

Let's go to the movies!

The SCG PFA is delighted to bring you two private screenings at Hoyts Watergardens as a fundraising event for our school community.

Tickets are available for \$20.00 each or a Family Ticket for \$70.00 (2 Adults and 2 Children). You can also pre order popcorn and drink combos at a special price.

Peter Rabbit—Celebrate the end of term one with an Egg Hunt and a viewing of Peter Rabbit: Join us on **25 March** at 10am. Follow this link for tickets to Peter Rabbit: <https://www.trybooking.com/362210>

Avengers: Infinity War—This **release day** private viewing will be held on **25 April** (Anzac Day) at 4:30pm. Follow this link for tickets to Avengers: <https://www.trybooking.com/362444>

Siblings and family members are welcome but tickets are strictly limited to 97 per session so hurry as we anticipate these will sell out quickly! We look forward to seeing you there!

Volunteer Call Out

The PFA is also seeking volunteers to assist with a range of activities in the school so if you are able to help out then please click here <http://ems.gs/3Aub0lhbbWh>