



The Southern Star

Mr Andrew Ponsford
Principal

Last week – some reflections

Earlier this week I advised specific groups of the appointment of Mr Alex Espinosa who replaces Ms D’Alton in the area of Humanities.

While we were undertaking this process, what struck me was the regular, helpful support received from our community (staff, students and parents) and the active interest shown by all stakeholders.

I warmly commend our communities’ commitment to SCG and for an invested staff who frequently go beyond that which is required. We are a school that prides itself on well managed educational opportunities, while at the same time, promoting a culture of care and support. Well done!

Senior School Formal Dinner

This culture of ‘family and care’ was no more evident last week, than when our Year 10 -12 students, together with parents and staff joined in a fantastic evening of fun and enjoyment on Friday evening at the Year 10-12 Social.

It is rare that such evenings include parents and I warmly commend our young people on embracing all aspects so maturely and successfully – fun with friends, involving mum and dad, informally engaging with staff and mixing so positively across year levels.

We are sometimes too quick to judge the younger generation – however I can honestly say that my peers were not nearly as good as the current generation at balancing all these aspects so capably.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ms Taylor Moss (PE Department) who played her first VFL game for Footscray last weekend. Making the team at this strong club was no mean feat, and we wish Taylor continued success as she strives to secure a place at the AFL level of the AWFL next year.

Years 3-12 House Athletics Sports

The Athletics Carnival on Tuesday was a credit to all concerned – great team spirit, an inclusive well run program, positive involvement by many and a winning staff relay team! Well done Mr Pell, Mr Wildsmith, Mr Hedditch and Mr Ogden against strong opposition.

In all seriousness, I went away from yesterday’s sports thinking it was one of our very best. Special thanks also to a wonderful group of parent volunteers who attended in support of the program. As I sit at my desk tapping out

this report, the positive comments of students echoes in the corridor outside. Again, well done to many on a fine job and a memorable occasion.

In all, an inspirational week in many respects in a range of endeavours both within and outside the classroom – well done to many!

Mrs Julie Baud
Deputy Principal, Head of Teaching and Learning

There is a lot happening in the Teaching and Learning space over the next few weeks; events that involve the Junior, Middle and Senior School.

Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will sit the annual NAPLAN tests next week on Tuesday 15 May, Wednesday 16 May and Thursday 17 May. Families of the students involved should have received, via email, a pamphlet providing details about the NAPLAN tests with an accompanying letter. The brochure should answer some of the common questions asked about this form of testing.

It is important to remember the NAPLAN Tests only provide a snapshot of where each student is in his/her learning at that point in time. The results can then be used to support and inform our Teaching and Learning programs and in turn improve students’ achievement. This data therefore provides valuable input to our curriculum and is an addition to our own school feedback.

The Middle and Senior School Mid-Year Exam Timetables have been published on the last page of this Newsletter. These Year 7-12 exams commence in Week 8 on Thursday 7 June.

This year with the opening of the new VCE Centre, all of the Year 10-12 exams will be held in the VCE Centre, with the exception of the Year 10 exams on Wednesday 13 June which will be held in the Middle School Building.

The Middle School (Year 7-9) exams will be held over two days on Thursday 7 June and Friday 8 June, with classes resuming as per the timetable after the long weekend on Tuesday 12 June.

The other important occasion to note is the Information Night on Wednesday 23 May for the 2019 Year 10 students. Current Year 9 families should have received a letter via email this week that outlined the importance of attending this session; the first stage in what will be an important journey for the students as they start to consider their future options and pathways. Families also play an important role in this journey so it would be wonderful to see as many families as possible attending.



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Ms Louisa Rennie
Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Senior School Formal Dinner

68 Senior School students attended our Formal Dinner this year. Each and every one of them looked fantastic and the evening was a great success. Many thanks to our dedicated families who showed their support. It was wonderful to have so many senior school parents join us for pre-dinner drinks and avail of the opportunity to connect with one another, meet new parents to our school and bear witness to our students who were so elegantly presented.





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Galway Interfaith Day



I am grateful to Ms Megan Unthank and 6 Yr 10 students for proudly representing us at the Galway Interfaith day on Wednesday. The Galway Association is a group of like-minded schools who associate for the purposes of sporting, cultural and social interchange in a mutually supportive manner for the benefit of the students of the member

schools. Our students offered the following reflection on their learning; "The Galway Interfaith Day was an eye opening experience where four schools came together to talk about spiritual and material poverty. Hosted by Ilim College, six of us participated in informative workshops and discussions focusing on how faith and religion can help alleviate or prevent poverty across the globe. In particular, we were enlightened as to how the Islamic faith perceive poverty and learned how aspects of their faith directly impact poverty reduction. We were welcomed into their Masjid and were shown the Wudhu ritual performed prior to prayer. We had an opportunity to discuss the importance of caring for the mind, body and soul of a person, and we reflected on our own practice and discovered how these three things were being looked after, or not. Overall, this was a positive educational experience that we will remember for some time to come."



to their well-deserved mum! Our guest speaker, Elizabeth Langdon, will give us some insights into success in the workplace and aiming high.

Athletics Carnival Team Spirit

While I am sure you have heard many stories about the sporting activities that took place at our Athletics Carnival on Tuesday, I take this opportunity to highlight the extraordinary effort of our Sport Captains. This year we have had a change in our student leadership structure and it has enabled Sport Captains across the school to work together. There was a definite lift in the demonstration of house and team spirit at this year's Carnival, due in large part to the hard work and early preparations of the House Captains. Congratulations to House Captains from all houses for the way you led your teams with passion and enthusiasm. It was an honour to be a part of this day with you.

Sport Captains				
	Ben Harbour	Simar Tokhi	Aaryan Chadha	Jacob Pilovski
JS	Thomas Stoitsis	Tayla Aykutlu	Sophie Salomon-Best	Saanvi Venkat
MS	Obydah Abu-Hassan	Tahlia Balliet	Lylana Anstee	Tijjani Rees Farrugia
SS				

Music Recitals

Music Recitals are scheduled during week 7 in the Junior School Learning Hub and will feature performances from all students enrolled in our Instrumental Program. All members of the school community are welcome to attend.

For more information about Music Recitals or the Private Music Program at Southern Cross Grammar, please email music@scg.vic.edu.au



Y10 students; Hamza Kashif, Adem Aykutlu, Bilal Hashi, Elise Bloor, Grace Muneretto and Sarah Balla

Mother's Day breakfast

We look forward to welcoming many of our Senior School mums to breakfast tomorrow morning. Our Senior School Mother's Day breakfast will be our chance to say thank you and to acknowledge the vital role our mums play in the lives of all Senior School students. All Senior School students will be in attendance. I am keen to observe them as they serve breakfast

Date	Instrument
Monday 28 May – 4pm	Piano and Violin – Students of Mrs Elizabeth Vincent
Tuesday 29 May – 4pm	Voice, Guitar and Drums – Students of Mrs McPike and Mr McQuade
Wednesday 30 May – 4pm	Piano, Brass and Woodwind – Students of Miss Lee, Mr Perger and Miss Wong
Thursday 31 May – 5pm	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass – Students of Miss Calvert, Miss Dias and Mrs Butler



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Ms Rebecca Boulton
Teacher

Last Thursday, twenty Southern Cross Grammar students travelled to Sacred Heart College Kyneton to participate in Round One of the Galway Interschool debating competition.

I am happy to report that our students were able to deliver many strong performances with three of our teams, Junior A, Intermediate A and our Senior team all winning both of their debates and posting a few 'best speakers' amongst them.

Well done to all of our teams for their efforts. Round Two will take place on Monday, May 21, with the grand finals to be held early in August. Stay tuned for further progress updates to come.

Tynan Grech, Vasilios Prassinos, Antonio Magro

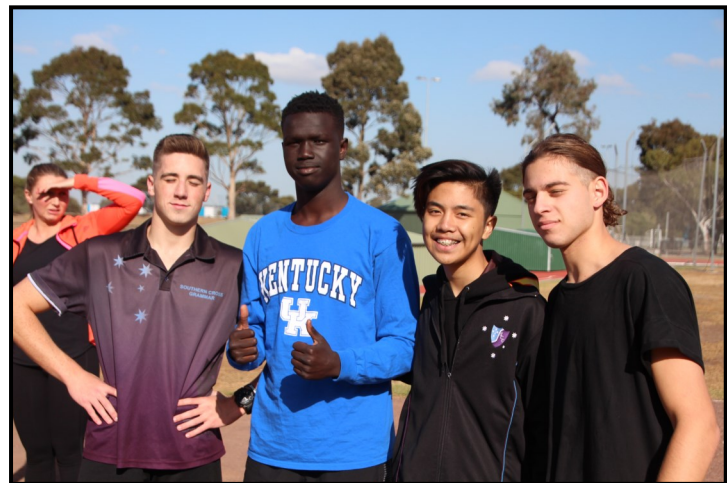


Ms Jade Panozzo & Mr Michael Pell
Heads of Sport

The weather gods turned it on for the House Athletics Carnival on Tuesday 8 May with students from Years 3-12 competing in a range of athletic events.

Student participation was at an all-time high and the house spirit on display was something that will be forever entrenched in the culture of the school.

On behalf of the whole Health & Physical Education department a huge thank you to all parent helpers, teachers and students alike for their efforts on the day and making it such a success. An assembly will be held in the coming weeks to acknowledge the age levels champions and also the winning house.



A message from the PFA ~ 2018 Colour Run

Due to the inclement weather forecast for Friday 11th May, the PFA has decided it is in the best interest of Colour Run participants that **the Colour Run Festival event is postponed until later in the year.**

Whilst we are disappointed to have to postpone the event, it will allow additional time for fundraising and hopefully all participants will be able to take part in the new date which we anticipate will bring warmer weather. Fundraising pages will remain open until the event is held (new date).



The Annual Mothers Day stall will be held tomorrow in the Junior School Learning Hub. Students are invited to bring along money to purchase a gift for their Mother or other special person.



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Ms Janis Coffey
Head of Middle School

Year 6 Canberra Camp

Students from our school have undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. We would like to formally acknowledge the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program which assists with important educational experiences such as this that enhance the learning of our students at SCG.



Student Services

This week I would like to focus on the Student Services we have invited the team to share some important information and perspectives on working with students with varied needs.

Southern Cross Grammar is growing, as too is the Student Services team. We are delighted to introduce ourselves to the whole school community. Our Students Services Team comprise of specialist trained staff who will aim to support and enhance student learning and well-being. We will throughout the year deliver services collaboratively that will focus on upon student engagement, social and emotional learning, well-being, transitions and pathways in our safe, inclusive and empowering environment.

Additionally we also would like to announce that the Occupational Therapist and Speech Therapist have commenced visiting the school for identified students. A **Parent Information Session** will be delivered by the Visiting specialists on **Thursday 24th May at 5pm.**

Shellie Cooper
Student Well-Being Co-Ordinator

Hi all, my name is Shellie Cooper and my role here in Student Services is Well-Being Co-ordinator. I come to you with experience in both Secondary and Primary schools so the opportunity to facilitate well-being whole school, F-12 is most

exciting. My education and training is Psychology and Counselling based with a strong focus on Mental Health. In my new role here at Southern Cross Grammar I hope to promote and support healthy well-being and positive mental health within the school community. It's an exciting time for the Student Services team as collectively, we plan to build capacity to promote the best possible outcomes for our students, to provide guidance to engage with family, community and service partnerships, to enable adjustments to curriculum where necessary, deliver tailored assistance to individual students with identified needs.

I look forward to getting to know you all.

Ms Lisa Denys
Student Services

My name is Lisa Denys of Student Services and I will be co-ordinating Integration here at Southern Cross Grammar. I will also be facilitating support for student in the Middle and Senior cohorts. My specialist experience has focused on learning support for Secondary students. I enjoy my role providing support to students and above all enjoy building the learning relationships. My role at Southern Cross Grammar is in a fulltime capacity so you can ensure you will see my face around. I look forward to working with my students and meeting parents.

Ms Casey Ferris & Ms Gabrielle Robinson
Learning Specialist – Middle Years Literacy

The Literacy Support and Intervention Program at Southern Cross Grammar aims to encourage students to foster motivation for reading and deep engagement in literacy whilst supporting their interest and enjoyment with books and other texts that they read and view. In using a range of multisensory teaching and learning approaches, students will build their skills in comprehending texts, fluency, knowledge, phonological awareness and understanding of vocabulary in order to be proficient and critical readers in their world.

This support and intervention program is aimed at providing students who demonstrate below/well below average literacy skills, strategies and better access to reading and viewing texts as well as improving their comprehension skills, phonological awareness and vocabulary. Students in Grade 5 – Year 8 participating in the program will work in small groups with a learning specialist in literacy during English classes three times a fortnight.



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Ms Romina Pimpini Head of Junior School

Recently in the Junior School we have been focusing on our community and engagement within it.

This week, the Year 9s invited us to participate in some fundraising stalls. What an experience this was, even for our youngest shoppers! One activity involved guessing the number of jelly beans in a jar.

Of all the students at SCG, we are proud to announce that Emily Grant of FBU guessed the beans correctly with her guess of 332 jelly beans.

Congratulations Emily!

We look forward to finishing off the week on a positive note, as we attend our Mother's Day & Special Friends Stall on Friday 11 May.

Here's hoping all JS students can bring a few dollars in to purchase something special for the special lady in their life.

Developing the Whole Child ~ on the Home front

Cleaning rooms. Doing dishes. Sweeping floors. Feeding pets. Washing clothes. Ironing clothes. Cooking dinner. Buying groceries ...

The list of chores is never ending! It's a pretty exhausting job running a family. So can you, or should you, ask your children to do chores? The short answer is yes! And better still, chores will strengthen family ties, benefit your kids into adulthood plus loads of other bonuses.

Swap the word "chores" for "help"

No word will make children run for the hills more than "chores." This word brings to mind ideas of boring and mindless tasks and regardless of age, no one likes that! Instead of using the word "chore" use the word "help". Asking for help shows that they are needed as part of the household and will be able to make you happy and proud by contributing.

The question of pocket money

Experts say it's best not to give pocket money for doing normal tasks around the house. Children benefit from learning that they do this work as part of the household, not to get paid for it. Pocket money can be great and help children learn valuable skills about money, but it's best if they find other ways to earn it.

Chores increase family bonding

Children learn about families, relationships and households through many ways and helping around the house is one of them. When children contribute to family life, it helps them feel useful and responsible, plus kids helping out with the housework can minimise family stress.

Chores are the perfect opportunity for bonding. If you wash the dishes and get your child to dry alongside you, you have a chance to chat and hear about each other's day.

Or try gardening together or walking the dog, those necessary tasks can easily become fun family activities and quality time together.

Unpacking the dishwasher can give kids lifelong skills

Parenting expert [Michael Grose](#) says chores such as unpacking the dishwasher are important for children to do because it instills a sense of responsibility, routine, and leads them down the very important path to independence in adulthood.

If your child knows that they have certain responsibilities, for example they need to make their bed, pack up their toys and empty the dishwasher every day, it will teach them about routine and the importance of organising their time. Children who do chores learn how to be self-sufficient because if they want to watch their favorite TV show after dinner, or go out with a friend on the weekend, then they need to make sure they have time for their tasks first.

It may seem a little thing, but if a child has been cleaning, preparing their own snacks and lunches, doing laundry and looking after pets since a young age, they will be perfectly prepared for adulthood. Plenty of teenagers move out of home at eighteen or nineteen and still don't know how to wash their clothes!

Age appropriate chores

Of course, the chores that you ask your children to do will vary with age. You can find a tip sheet at http://glenps.vic.edu.au/app/webroot/uploaded_files/media/chores_and_responsibilities.pdf

While I can't guarantee that any of these tips will make your house temper-tantrum free, they will help the sanity of your whole household in the long run.

Parking



A reminder that nature strips, driveways and corners are not to be used from parking or dropping-off/collecting children, as this is illegal and fines will ensue. Safe use of our roads and parking will benefit everyone, especially our students.

Parents please remind your children that they are required by law to wear a helmet when riding a bike. We have had several students riding to school with their helmets on their handlebars rather than on their head. We appreciate your support in ensuring our students are safe when riding to school



<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/a-to-z-of-road-rules/bicycles>



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Senior School (Yr10 to Yr12) Mid Year Exams 2018



Time line	Thursday 7 th June Day 4	Friday 8 th June Day 5	Tuesday 12 th June Day 7 Exams commence at 8.15am	Wednesday 13 th June Day 8	Thursday 14 th June Day 9 Exams commence at 8.15am	Friday 15 th June Day 10
Session 1 8:15am to 10:30am	3/4 English	3/4 Accounting	3/4 Biology	GAT: General Achievement Test (All students studying one or more Unit 3/4 Subjects) (Yr. 10 exams to be held in the Middle School)	3/4 Further Mathematics Exam 1: 8.15am-10am	1/2 History
	1/2 English	3/4 Psychology	1/2 Psychology		3/4 Mathematical Methods Exam 1: 8.15am-9.30am	
	3/4 Literature	3/4 Physics			1/2 Mathematical Methods Exam 1: 8.15am-9.30am	
	1/2 Literature	3/4 VET Sport & Recreation			1/2 General Mathematics	
	Yr. 10 Mathematical Methods	3/4 VET Music		Yr. 10 Humanities	10 Visual Arts 8.15am- 9.35am	
	Yr. 10 General Maths	1/2 Physics			Break for Mathematic Students until 11am	
		Yr. 10 English			3/4 Further Mathematics Exam 2: 11am-12.45pm	
		1/2 General Mathematics (Kasey Merceica)			3/4 Mathematical Methods Exam 2: 11am-1.15pm	
Break 10:30 to 11:30am						Break 10:30am to 11:30am
Session 2 11:30am to 2:00pm		1/2 Business Management	1/2 Physical Education			
		1/2 Media				
		3/4 Media				
		1/2 General Mathematics (Kasey Merceica)				
Break 2:00pm to 3:00pm						Break 2:00pm to 3:00pm
Session 3 3:00pm to 5:30pm	3/4 Health & Human Development	3/4 Chemistry	3/4 Business Management	Yr. 10 Business Studies	3/4 Physical Education to commence 2.30pm	
	Yr. 10 Introductory Biology	3/4 Computing	1/2 Legal Studies	Yr. 10 Introductory Psychology	1/2 Biology to commence 2.30pm	
		1/2 Chemistry			1/2 Health & HD to commence 2.30pm	
		1/2 Computing			1/2 VCD to commence 2.30pm	
		1/2 Drama				
		1/2 Music Performance				
		1/2 VET Music				
		1/2 Physical Education (Njeb Zoghaib)				
	1/2 Psychology (Ellie Codman)					
	Yr. 10 Chemistry A					

Middle School Mid Year Exams 2018



Time line	Thursday 7 th June Day 4	Friday 8 th June Day 5
Session 1 8:45am to 11:15pm (8:45am to 9:45am Homeroom & Study)	Yr. 7 Maths	Yr. 7 English
	Yr. 8 Humanities	Yr. 8 Maths
	Yr. 9 Humanities	Yr. 9 Science
11:15am to 11:45am Recess		
Student Study Session 11:45 to 12:45pm		
12:45 to 1:15pm Lunch		
Session 2 12:45pm to 3:05pm	Yr. 8 English	Yr. 8 Science
	Yr. 9 Maths	Yr 9 English