



# The Southern Star

# Southern Cross Grammar

**Mr Andrew Ponsford**  
Principal

**Congratulations**  
**Ms Barnes**

On the safe arrival of their first child, a 4.58 kilo bouncing baby boy, named Vedder Sydney James Ross.

**Mr Gauci** Our 'famous' YouTube star of Superteachermen, is now the proud father of second child, Finnley McConnell Gauci.

**Ms Rennie** Continuing the above theme, congratulations Ms Rennie on the pending publication of her second book, titled "I'm the Principal":

**Principal learning, action, influence and identity (2018).** Written as a collaborative exercise in conjunction with eminent author and authority, Stephen Dinham OAM, (Emeritus Professor at the Melbourne School of Education, University of Melbourne), the book is an important study of key aspects and contributors to principal learning, action, influence and identity through interviews with 50 practising principals drawn from the various sectors and levels of Australian school education. The text will provide a valuable learning tool for leadership in schools.



**Best Wishes**

Best wishes also to Zac Gorman (Year 8) who is soon to play in the Junior League National Championships for baseball in Adelaide.

**Mrs Julie Baud**  
Deputy Principal, Head of Teaching and Learning

Assessment and Reporting in the Middle School  
As we enter a busy assessment period with teachers across the school from Foundation to Year 12 running assessments in a range of curriculum areas, it is timely to explain some small changes being implemented in the Middle School.

To bring Years 7-9 more in line with the VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education), a grade scale similar to that used for Year 10-11 is being implemented for the calculation of end of semester scores. The table below indicates the grade a student will be awarded for achieving each particular percentage.

Year 7-9 students whose semester percentage is less than 50% for any subject will have an opportunity to re-submit or re-sit one major assessment task or exam for that particular subject, through negotiation with the teacher of that subject. If the mark in this task boosts the student's semester score to 50% or higher, the student will receive an "S" (Satisfactory) for the subject on the Semester 1 report instead of an "E" or "UG" and a final percentage score. The initial percentage score for that particular assessment task will stand and will be included on the report.

Semester Grade	Semester Percentage
A+	90 – 100%
A	80 – 89%
B	70 – 79%
C	60 – 69%
D	50 – 59%
E	40 – 49%
UG	0 – 39% (Year 10-11)
N	0 – 39% (Year 7-9)
S	Satisfactory (Year 7-9)

It is anticipated through introducing this policy, there will be benefits to students' learning as they should develop a greater understanding of the work being assessed if given a second opportunity to re-learn the work and demonstrate their knowledge and skills. The other benefit is that Middle School students will become familiar with language and processes that will be an important part of their senior years.

As mentioned previously, I urge all Year 9 families to attend the Information Night on Wednesday 23 May to be held from 6.00pm – 7.00pm in Room C102/C103/C104. A lot of very important information will be presented around the VCE and the options available at Southern Cross Grammar for the 2019 Year 10 cohort so I recommend students and parents attend. I look forward to this occasion and to supporting our families through this significant period over the next few months when time will be spent considering future pathways and possible subjects to enrol in.

**Paws For Books: Come. Stay. Read a great tale!**



Get ready for the exciting Book Fair coming to Southern Cross Grammar in week 7.

The Book Fair is a great event for students and parents to view and select new books together. More details to come in next week's newsletter.



# The Southern Star

**Ms Louisa Rennie**

**Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School**

## Uniform in the Senior School

The Southern Cross Grammar School Uniform is an important aspect of the School's commitment to building a safe and respectful school environment with high expectations for all students. The dress code exemplifies care in personal presentation and enhances the reputation of the individual and the School.

The uniform must be worn in the correct manner on all school occasions, including when travelling to and from school. It is an expectation of all students, that they uphold this policy and contribute to a culture of success in our school. Unfortunately, our uniform is lacking some polish. As a result a Uniform Infringement Process has been introduced today.

The purpose of the Uniform Infringement Process is to create consistency in the way uniform expectations are both understood and implemented. This enables clear and consistent expectations amongst students, parents and staff. This process also encourages students to uphold the school values through correctly wearing the uniform.

With a clear line of accountability for students when the uniform is not worn correctly, they are encouraged to take the initiative to present themselves as representatives of Southern Cross Grammar. I am grateful to our parent community for supporting the values of the school through the presentation of the School Uniform.

1. Senior School students are required to wear the appropriate uniform at all times. In extenuating circumstances where students are not in the correct uniform, a parent note to explain the reason for the student to be out of uniform is required.
2. All staff, in accordance with their professional responsibilities to uphold the culture of the school, are responsible for checking that students are in the correct uniform.
3. The Uniform Policy is clear and no warnings or reminders will be issued. Student who are not in correct uniform will receive an Infringement Notice in their diary, and be required to attend a Thursday after school detention until 3:45pm. Parents are reminded to check dairies regularly. It is the student's responsibility to show the Infringement Notice to their parents, and to arrive at the Detention on time.

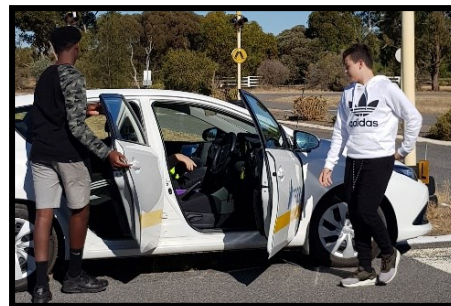
## Y10 Driver Education

This week, 24 Year 10 students undertook a 2 day Driver Education Program in Charlton. I am very grateful to Ms Brkic and Ms Robinson for accompanying the students and being a part of their learning over the two days.

Paris has shared her reflections on the experience: "Recently we attended the Driver Education Program, to learn about safety on the roads and learn how to drive. This was a two-day course that consisted of theory and practical sessions.



The course managed to challenge us and push us outside our comfort zones. The theory sessions taught us how to be safe on the road, the rules on the road, how to apply to get our Learner Permit, the 'towards zero' campaign and much more! Our practical sessions were a whole lot better than the theory sessions and we were able to put everything we had learnt in our theory sessions into action, we eased into it slowly learning how to brake smoothly, turn on the corners and other basic driving skills.



Many students had never driven before so this was a new experience for them and every single student grew and developed their knowledge and improved every single time! Within

this experience we were all faced with our own challenges, but I would say for most of us the night driving was in fact the hardest and most challenging. Despite this, we all managed to push ourselves to the limits and challenge ourselves to make this the best experience ever!

I would most definitely recommend this experience to future Year 10 students, *whether* you have never driven a car before or have had very little experience or you have your Learner Permit, this Program can help you understand the 'towards zero' campaign *and* make you a better driver." *Paris Spirovski Y10*

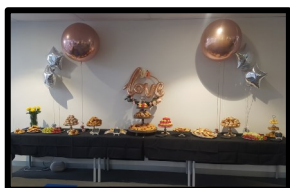




# The Southern Star

SOUTHERN CROSS GRAMMAR

## Senior School Mother's Day Breakfast



Thank you so much to all our mums for joining us to celebrate Mother's Day in the Senior School last week. 45 mums attended our early morning breakfast and enjoyed hearing our guest speaker sharing her insights on success in the workplace.

Elizabeth Langdon has 25 years' experience working in the public and private sectors, and has led multiple policy and operational teams. Elizabeth joined the Victorian public service in 2005, spending 8 years in the Department of Premier and Cabinet in policy and corporate leadership roles.

Following that, she went to the Department of Health (now the Department of Health and Human Services with some 12,000 staff), with her most recent role being Deputy Secretary, People, Capability and Oversight. Recently her team won a number of awards for their work on Aboriginal Employment in the Department and for a People Strategy which Elizabeth initiated.

Before joining the public service, Elizabeth worked in Australia and abroad, at the Harvard School of Public Health, the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG), Melbourne University Private and the United Nations in both Geneva and New York.

Elizabeth challenged us all to consider the importance of preparation, in everything we do. There are no secrets to success, it is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.

Thank you to Lily for sharing her recount of Elizabeth's presentation: "Last Friday at the first Southern Cross Grammar Mother's Day celebration breakfast, guest speaker Elizabeth Langdon shared with the Senior School students and their mothers, on the ways she manages her career as a public servant and raising her two young boys.

Her career has been eclectic and strays from the normative 'cookie cutter' career path of the women of her generation. She advocated saying 'yes' to all opportunities, perspectives and experiences that come our way. Her speech really resonated with me, not only as a current Year 12 student, but an aspiring career woman. Her passion and expertise for her career, inspired the students to strive for success and think about what we want to achieve.

I particularly enjoyed her 'advice to my younger self' subsection as it not only provided me with insight from an older female mentor, but life lessons I can utilise now and within my future career. This speech was beneficial for both students and mothers to hear. This shared experienced allowed mother and child to come together as a family unit, and added to the rich family culture Southern Cross Grammar continually upholds."  
*Lily Mirabito Y12*





# The Southern Star

**Ms Romina Pimpini**  
**Head of Junior School**

Our Junior School focus of community and engagement has really picked up pace in the past week. While the challenges set at the start of term of “11 new friends in 11 weeks” still stands, it has been encouraging to see students enacting our Student Centred Vision.



At our recent Mother's Day Stall, we watched students *listening and respecting* as they practised skills of budgeting and delayed gratification. After all, purchasing items and then

having to hide them isn't always easy!

Many thanks to our PFA volunteers for their organisation of this event, as well as their guidance and suggestions for even our youngest shoppers!



## Year 2 CERES excursion

On May 15th the Year Two's went to CERES for an excursion. Firstly we went for a creek walk, but not just any walk ~ a Merri Creek walk. Secondly our leader took us to learn about 'bush tucker', but then it started raining. So we went into a room with our leader Kate and we did a play called 'Tiddalik the Frog'. Our leader Kate put us into groups and gave us some Australian animal costumes. The animals were cockatoos, eels, possums and kangaroos. Simone, one of our parent helpers dressed up as Tiddalik the Frog she was very funny! Next Kate taught us about the different types of bush tucker inside the classroom.



We got to smell different types of seeds and nuts; one even smelt like chocolate! Finally, we went with Subik our other leader, and he taught us about Ochre. We learned that ochre was a type of rock that Aboriginals use to paint their faces. It was interesting!

We had a really great time learning about Aboriginal culture.

*Sienna M & Shayana –*  
*Year 2*

## Foundation Fairytales excursion – ACMI



We went to ACMI Screens World and there were people making movies. There was one person who was up high in a square who controlled all the lights. He made lights on the screen so the movie could happen. We played lots of instruments like drums, triangles and a twister and we got to practice them. The man in the square asked me

through headphones if we were

*Ava T Foundation*



## JS Assembly next week

Our next assembly in the JS is scheduled for Friday 25 May, commencing at 2:30pm.

We look forward to sharing our learning and development with our families and friends of the Junior School.

## Parking @ SCG

Student safety is a priority at Southern Cross Grammar. This has been highlighted on more than one occasion this week with a young student coming in to close contact with irresponsible road users in cars.

The School has again raised with the City of Melton our significant and escalating concerns for the safety of students crossing Becca Way and Lancefield Drive both before and after school. The potential for injury or worse to a student is high and unacceptable in our opinion and a risk that can be mitigated with appropriate crossings on both roads.

We ask for your ongoing support in this regard which can be evidenced by driving at an appropriate speed, being vigilant for students crossing the road and by parking only in designated parking bays.

We will continue to seek action from the Council to improve parking and crossing conditions as a priority.