



The Southern Star

Southern Cross Grammar

Mr Andrew Ponsford
Principal

2019 Year 10 Information Evening

My best wishes to our current Year 9 students and families who attended a most important Information Evening in the VCE Centre last night – the introduction to VCE pathways and language, together with Subject choices for the future can be quite complex.

Those not in attendance are strongly encouraged to avail themselves of the information shared, so as not to be at a disadvantage.

Uniform and Punctuality

We aspire to high expectations – part of this is attention to detail, personal pride in appearance and punctuality. A small minority of students can ‘lift their game in this regard’. Staff and Homeroom Teachers in particular are involving families where we have concerns. Research indicates that strong partnerships here, between parents, students and staff frequently result in the best success and lasting positive outcomes. We do appreciate this support and recognise its importance.

Music Recitals next Monday 28 to Thursday 31 May

I take this opportunity to wish Mr Graham, 11 instrumental teachers and nearly 300 students a great week of music performance and enjoyment over four afternoons of Music Recitals, Monday 28 through to Thursday 31 May in The Learning Hub, Junior School.

Congratulations

Good luck and congratulations to Kayla Jones on the amazing achievement of being selected to represent Victoria at the School Sports Australia in Swimming. She will travel to Hobart in July and compete against the best in Australia. We wish her all the best!



Uniform – Parents and Friends Association

The SCG polar fleece sports jackets and vests have been discontinued and replaced by the shell jacket. The PFA uniform shop would welcome donations of these uniform items to include in their next delivery to their choice of charity - Rotary. Rotary run a program called Donations In Kind through which they ship donated goods overseas to communities in need. Please leave any donation at Junior School Reception with a note indicating that it is a donation for the PFA Uniform Shop.

Mrs Julie Baud
Deputy Principal, Head of Teaching and Learning

Mid-year exams

We are about to enter what is traditionally a really hectic time of the year for secondary students: the mid-year exam period. In the middle of these exams, on Wednesday 13 June, the majority of our Year 11 and 12 students will complete the General Achievement Test (GAT) set by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

GAT Exam

The GAT is a 3 hour exam that is compulsory for all Victorian students enrolled in one or more Year 12 subjects. While the results do not count directly towards students' Year 12 final score (the ATAR – Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank), they are used as part of the statistical moderation process that leads to the calculation of the ATAR. It is therefore important students are provided with the opportunity to achieve the best possible results. For this reason, our students will complete a Practice GAT beforehand to help them develop an understanding of the type of questions they can expect.

The mid-year exam timetable for Years 7-12 has been published so students will receive a hard copy from their Homeroom teacher soon. It is important to note Year 7-9 students complete their exams on Thursday 7 June and Friday 8 June with classes recommencing on Tuesday 12 June as per the Semester 1 timetable.

Senior School students (Years 10-12) have exams scheduled over a longer period, from Thursday 7 June to Friday 15 June with Semester 2 classes commencing on Monday 18 June. Therefore, Wednesday 6 June will be the last day of scheduled classes for Year 10-12 students until the commencement of Semester 2. Ms Rennie will provide details to the Senior School students re expectations around attendance during the exam period.

All students in Years 7-12, should have started revising for these exams by now. I encourage them to seek assistance from their teachers if they are not sure how to prepare for them. Developing these study skills will increasingly become an important part of our academic program. Ongoing exam practice is essential if we are to prepare them as best we can for their final senior secondary years.

Ms Romina Pimpini
Head of Junior School

In the Junior School, our work is based around academic rigour, as well as embracing our SCG Student Centred Vision through the daily interaction we have with our students. We also guide their individual growth and development as they experience social interactions, and at times, challenges each day. Our work, together with families, is to develop the resilience in our students so they may grow in to independent well-rounded young people.

How fortunate we are to be able to witness this in our F-12 setting. The article below may be of interest to parents and carers as we work together for the benefit of your children. Here's to a great week ahead for all!

How to use praise and encouragement to develop your child's confidence. By Michael Grose, Author

Perhaps the most exciting news in the parenting area over the last decade is the discovery of brain plasticity. That is, the brain is always growing and developing as opposed to it developing and reaching its nadir in a person's late twenties; and then it's all downhill from there. It's exciting to know that your child's talent and smarts are not fixed. Their brains can always learn more, continue to grow and be stretched. This doesn't mean that your child doesn't have a propensity to be smart in certain areas such as math or language learning or that all talent is created equal.

Genetics gifts us with certain abilities that are either developed or they're not. Instead, your child's abilities and talents, just like yours, are evolving over time.

So as parent it seems smart to develop a growth mindset in your child. A fixed mindset is limiting, even debilitating for kids. You want them to believe that with effort and practice they can develop their skills and abilities in whatever area or interest they want. Science is now on their side - their brains will continue to grow and stretch however a fixed mindset will let them down. If they believe that intelligence and talent is fixed then those beliefs will become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Once again, it all comes down to attitude!

Jenny Brockis in her wonderful book "Future Brain" reminds us that success has more to do with fluid intelligence, tenacity and belief. She writes, "Our attitude or mindset is not something we are born with. It evolves gradually, refined by our experiences and who we spend our time with."

Carol Dweck, author of "The New Psychology of Success" believes that a growth mindset is the quality that separates those who succeed from those who don't. Her research reveals how the use of language when praising kids can have a profound impact on their attitudes. Subtle differences in tone, wording and phrasing can lead even a child at two and half to have a self-limiting belief when he or she started school a few years later.

1. Praise effort, strategy and action not results

Focus more on the processes of what kids do rather than results to develop a growth mindset. Kids need to hear comments such as "You worked hard to get that right!" (effort), "That was a smart idea to tackle the hardest task while you were fresh!" (strategy) and "You recognised the first few steps were the most important but then after that you were right." (action). This type of praise, also known as encouragement, helps kids develop the belief that success has more to do with what they do than innate smarts and talents.

2. Look for opportunities to stretch your child's capabilities

Encourage kids to stretch their capabilities by adding depth and breadth to their list of activities. Boys, in particular, often go deep investing all their time into areas of interest such as sport or online gaming to develop their talents over time. Encourage them to stretch their capabilities across a range of areas rather than a few. Conversely, encourage a child who dabbles in many areas or interests without specialising in any area, to go deeper in one area.

3. Give honest feedback

Providing your child with honest feedback about their **performance** not only helps them improve, but also promotes a growth mindset. We often shy away from giving feedback for fear of harming their self-esteem. Confidence can be maintained by being sensitive to how we provide feedback. For instance, focusing on two or three things kids do well before giving constructive feedback is one way you can keep young a learner's head up while giving pointers about better performance.

Having a plastic brain means that we can continue to acquire new skills, learn new things and embed new habits across our lifespan. It is important then that we help children develop a growth mindset so that they can reap the benefits of brain plasticity over their lifetime rather be limited by their belief systems

Ms Louisa Rennie

Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Y10 and VCE 1/2 Biology Study Groups

A common mistake made by students is viewing their final years of School as a solo journey. However, research shows that top-performing students work in teams and maximise their time by sharing tasks. The easiest and most effective way to achieve this is by delegating time-heavy tasks like note-taking to peers in a Study Group. For a Study Group to function at capacity, students need to ensure they form them with the right people, and have a clear plan as to how they will distribute the work.

Next Thursday 31 May, Ms Deepti Rojiwadiya and I will begin our first Senior School Biology Study Group, with the intention of holding them as a regular extra curricula offering.

To be held in the VCE Centre Careers Room from 3:10pm – 4:00pm, the Study Group is open to all students from Y10 Biology and VCE 1/2 Biology. Together, Ms Rojiwadiya and I will:

- support students to form Study Groups
- teach explicit note taking skills pertinent to Biology, using *Elevate Education* materials
- facilitate note-taking and activities in a structured environment.

Title: Y10 and VCE 1/2 Biology Study Group
Y10 Topic: Cell structure and Function
VCE 1/2 Topic: Ecosystems
Date: Thursday 31 May
Time: 3:10pm – 4:00pm
BYO: Biology text, writing materials, laptop, and a readiness to learn
Who: Y10 and VCE 1/2 Biology students
RSVP bmacdonald@scg.vic.edu.au

We are hopeful that all students will consider this a unique opportunity to focus, receive specialist support and build their Biology Content knowledge. Thank you to parents and students in anticipation of your support for this extra-curricula learning opportunity. And thank you to Ms Deepti Rojiwadiya for your willingness to support our students to achieve success.

Congratulations Jami Declerck

We offer our congratulations to Jami Declerck, who is exploring her passion for Musical Theatre with a role in an exciting production, and has also been recently selected to participate in an extra-curricula Dance program. "I am in the production *"High School Musical"* at the moment, playing the role of Taylor with Fab Nobs, the Production Company. Participating is such an experience is giving me the extra boost I need to strive to reach my goal, which is to secure a scholarship to study Fine Arts and Musical Theatre in New York. I have also been chosen to be part of the MODSTAR program, allowing me to further myself with my dancing abilities. I'm passionate about The Arts and both of these opportunities are assisting me to fine tune my skills." *Jami Declerck, Y11*

VCE Science skills sessions

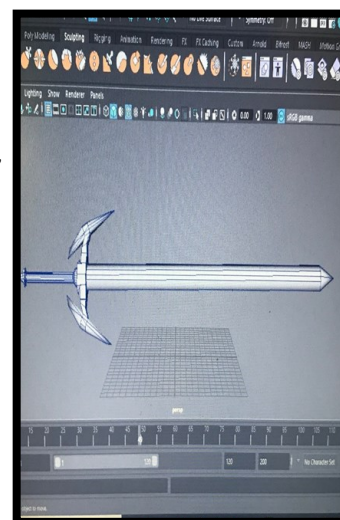
Science students in Year 11 and 12 are being provided an opportunity to attend sessions after school, 3.10pm to 4.00pm every odd week, from next Tuesday 29 May. The sessions will incorporate various practical activities with a particular focus on developing scientific skills. Grateful thanks to Mr Rajnesh Ram for his work in leading these sessions and for encouraging our Senior students to broaden and deepen their knowledge base. Such skills are transferrable and critical to future success in tertiary study and the workplace. All Year 11 and 12 Science students are encouraged to approach Mr Ram to book in for the these sessions.

Congratulations Keon Ulloa

We are very proud of Keon Ulloa for the progress he has made in his VET Program in Digital Design. Keon has offered some insight into his learning:

"Hi my name is Keon Ulloa, I am a Year 10 student who is very passionate about designing, Game art animation, 3D animation and VFX (Visual Effects) for films. I am currently attending a VET (Vocational Education and Training) program, in Digital Design at Catholic Regional College Sydenham, every Tuesday afternoon.

I have learnt to use a program called MAYA. MAYA is a well-known program that is used in the industry of 3D Animation and Films. While I have been attending my VET, I have developed the skills to understand and use the program to design and create animation. With the new skills I have learnt, I have been able to create some of my own visual ideas into 3D art work.



My latest design is a 3D sword from the middle age, which I am

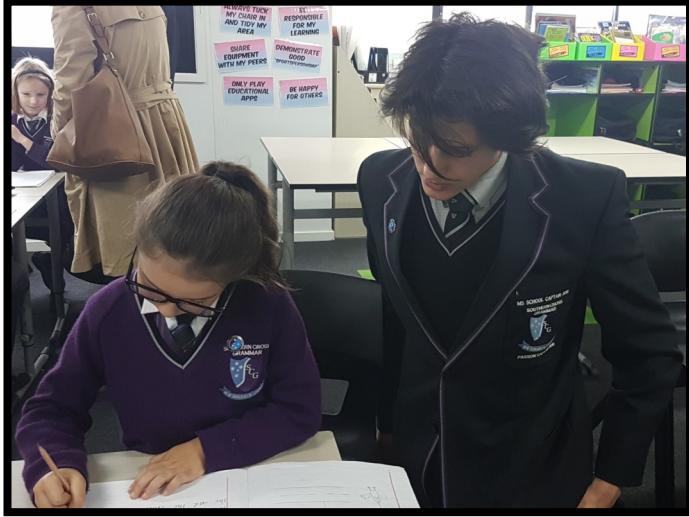


hoping to use, in a game I want to create. I have explored many sources to create my sword and make it my own. My experience in reaching out, beyond our school to do this program has been very positive, and I would encourage other students to consider how much we can all learn by taking steps to extend ourselves. I have made new friends, and have been able to advance my learning through a hands-on program." *Keon Ulloa, Y10*

School Tour

This morning three of our Senior School leaders conducted a School Tour. Accompanying prospective parents around our school and showcasing some of the learning opportunities on offer at Southern Cross Grammar, they showed great pride in who we are and our core purpose.

I was grateful to the visiting guests who took the time to offer



feedback at the end of the tour; "Your students were so informative, and so passionate about their school. They answered our questions and hearing about the school from their perspective was very valuable to us. You have a beautiful school". thank you and congratulations to Ellie Codman, Antonio Filippone and Lauren Jones for your leadership and for stepping into this opportunity so well.



Jade Panozzo

Head of Sport (Years 3-6)

Well done to all Year 5 and 6 students who participated in Interschool Sports over the past two Fridays. All students demonstrated a positive attitude and fantastic sportsmanship. Of the four sports SCG competed in we achieved some outstanding results. Our Hockey team won the whole competition and will now progress through to divisionals later in the year and our Netball team was one game away from making a grand final. Thank you also to the Middle School Sport Captains and Coaches who gave up their time to run lunchtime training sessions and team manage on the day.



Michael Pell
Head of Sport (Years 7-12)

Congratulations to the Year 9/10 Girls Netball team who had a wonderful campaign at the Maribyrnong Division Year 9/10 event, which was capped off with a Grand Final appearance.

The girls finished their pool games with two wins and a draw to progress to the final against Footscray City College. Unfortunately they were out-classed by a far superior outfit, going down 3-32.

The results of the games were as follows;
SCG v Brookside 9-9
SCG v Lakeview 25-3
SCG v Springside 20-3.

The Year 9/10 Boys Soccer also competed but weren't able to come away with a win. The boys lost their first game to Lakeview 0-1 and blew a 3-1 lead against Creekside to draw 3-3.



Lost property?

If your child is missing items of clothing or other school items, please ask them to check the Lost Property shelf in the Junior School and Middle School buildings.



Toner Recycling

Did you know that on average Australians send 34 printer cartridges to the landfill every minute? To assist our community to do its part in ensuring a sustainable future for everyone, we now have a Toner Recycling box located in the Junior School Learning Resource Centre provided by Planet Ark.



Toner and other consumables from printer brands *Brother, Canon, Epson, Konica Minolta, Kyocera, Roland, OKI, Dell, Sharp, Océ and Samsung* can be accepted by this program – students and their families are most welcome to bring their used toners and consumables in from home and dispose of them within the box. Please ensure that no cardboard or packaging material is put within the Planet Ark bin, as this will contaminate our pickup for them.

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

The Book Fair is almost upon us! The excitement is building and students are eagerly awaiting the chance to visit the Fair. Students from Foundation to Year 6 will visit the Fair during the day with their class and the Fair will be open to everyone from 3.10pm on Tuesday 29 May – Thursday 31 May. There will also be a *last chance* opportunity to visit the Fair on Friday 1 June morning from 8am.



School zone speed limits

Please take care when travelling around our school's proximity – student safety is important and we ask everyone to be mindful of the legal 40km/h speed zone in and around schools.