



The Southern Star

Southern Cross Grammar

Mr Andrew Ponsford
Principal

Exams – Thursday 7 June to Friday 15 June

My best wishes to all students from Years 7-12 who will be involved with mid-year exams over the next week commencing this morning. Advance information concerning the timetable has been previously provided.

It is a critical time of performance assessment – understanding how one is progressing, where the areas of strength lie and aspects for further enhancement and focus.

This period also tests our systems and strategies – organisation, note taking, revision techniques, study regimes and proactive planning (referred to as ‘front loading’ in the modern era) as well as exam technique.

I wish all students well for this critical time and thank the staff who will provide important feedback to enhance performance.

Thank you

It was very nice to receive a Certificate of Appreciation and warm letter of thanks from local RSL President, Andrew Marshall for SCG’s support of the ANZAC appeal through the selling of badges.

Our efforts to improve the conditions of others through personal time and involvement are indeed praiseworthy. Well done and thank you to those who took part!

Monday 11 June – Queen’s Birthday Holiday

Best wishes to all families and members of the SCG community for the upcoming long weekend. School resumes at the customary time on Tuesday 12 June.

Congratulations

District Cross-Country Team

Last week’s newsletter featured some splendid Cross-Country performances; our strongest on record. I take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to students and staff on what was an outstanding team effort, with eight SCG athletes progressing to the Western Metropolitan level.

I know that the listed students from last week would also like me to extend their thanks to fellow team members who supported and encouraged them on the day. Cross Country running is not dissimilar to bike riders who work together to the benefit of each other. Well done everyone!

Year 8 Girls’ Netball Team

The group have developed considerably over the last 12 months and finished a very credible second at the recent

District competition. Mr Pell has provided further details later in the newsletter. The following girls made up the team: Thisangi Abayaratne, Olivia Alexander, Tayla Bloor, Rebecca Dimovska, Molly Failli, Melissa Manno, Amelie Harrison, Abigael Ngugi, Cindy Nguyen, Esma Urun, and Emma Williams.

Mrs Julie Baud

Deputy Principal, Head of Teaching and Learning

After lots of discussion and preparation, the mid-year exams finally commenced today for Years 7-12. There were nearly 100 Senior School students in the large downstairs room in the VCE Centre completing English and Mathematics exams. It was a sight to see!

There have been a few nervous moments in recent days but now that things are underway, as evidenced in the accompanying photograph, I am sure the stress levels will subside.



The Senior School exam period that continues until Friday 15 June includes the external Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) General Achievement Test (GAT); compulsory for all students enrolled in one or more Year 12 (3/4) subjects. Middle School (Years 7-9) exams will be completed today and tomorrow. We wish our students all the best over this examination period and trust they are rewarded for their hard work.

We are gradually increasing the focus on exams as students move up through the Middle School and into the VCE years to ensure they are well prepared for their Year 12 exams in the future. This becomes an important priority when schools introduce the senior years.

I encourage families to provide support and encouragement to students during these challenging exam periods. For many, it will be the first time a member of the family has participated in Middle School and/or VCE exams so a focus on physical and mental health will be important. Support can be provided through ensuring students have regular healthy meals, plenty of sleep, regular breaks, daily exercise and time away from screens.

Along with the focus on exams in the secondary years, there have been numerous other exciting learning opportunities for our students recently.

These included the Legal Studies students visiting a jail, the Chess Club (which operates during lunch times) and Years 3 and 4 Robotics activities. The Robotics Club has continued to be very popular and there have also been a couple of very engaging incursions in the Junior School. So, things have been very busy!

The staff are to be commended on their willingness and expertise in providing these opportunities for our students.

Ms Romina Pimpini
Head of Junior School

Science Incursion

The NGL Principles of Thinking, Futures and Passion have been exemplified this past week in our Junior School.

Years 3 and 4 have made links from their learning in Science with the real world when they had an incursion about 'Physics' And 'Forces', respectively.

Students trialed, tested, hypothesized and analysed scientific phenomena to better understand how our World works.



Year 3 students commented about the experience:
Zach Micevski – the incursion was really interesting and I learnt a lot more about heat and how it effects metal.
Dut Garang – Learning about hot and cold was extraordinary. It was fun holding the blow torch and making a huge fire.

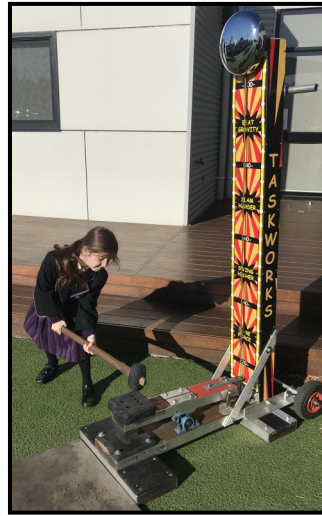
Year 4 students enjoyed an incursion run by a company called Taskworks. They set up a variety of machines that worked using



different forces. Students had the opportunity to disassemble and reassemble a go-kart, pump up an air powered seesaw and smash a high striker with a sledge hammer.

The high striker was where students used all their force to hit a pad with a big hammer. The puck would then fly up a cord and score how much force the person had hit the pad with. Some students were even able to ring the bell at the top!

The air powered seesaw was a contraption where you push and pull a lever to lift students into the air. You could then release the air pressure and gravity would lower the student back to the ground.



Overall the Year 4 students had a fantastic experience where they learnt lots of new things about gravity, friction, air pressure, magnets and many more forces!

By Amaan, Jacob and Liam G of Year 4

Passion was highly visible last Friday afternoon when the Year 3s sang with Mr Familiar and a guest performer.



Mr Familiar shared his passion for music and personal involvement in a band with the entire Junior School. Miss Sathiaselan took the microphone to duet in a version of the song, *Valerie* as well, sharing her skill of voice and love for music as something to be shared across age and culture.

These recent experiences have once again helped us make important links between our learning now in school and our future pathways we may take.



Independence in Learning—at Home too!

Recently, I read a really great article that highlighted the importance of building independence in learning and in particular, allowing children to undertake their own homework (or home-learning).

As the very important support network for your children, parents and carers may like to read this:

Trust the kids: Study shows they're great at homework if you leave them alone

Tell the grown-ups to back off — you can be trusted to do your homework without their help and you have an international study to back you up. It found children aged 7 to 10 were better at homework if left alone.

The study's author, University of Eastern Finland Assoc. Prof. Jaana Viljaranta, said parents helping every step of the way risked making their children lose interest in schoolwork.

"One possible explanation is that when the mother gives her child an opportunity to do homework autonomously, the mother also sends out a message that she believes in the child's skills and capabilities," Assoc. Prof. Viljaranta said.

"This in turn makes the child believe in him or herself, and in his or her skills and capabilities."

The academic performance of 365 Years 2 and 4 students was compared with the amount of help they got from their mother and teacher as part of the study, which also involved Finland's University of Jyväskylä.

Success may also depend on kids, teachers and parents all talking about what needs to be done and what will work best for the kids.

"Parents should encourage kids to seek further information from the teacher if they need it," Mr Yarrington said.

"Homework should not cause tension between family members — that causes a negative attitude towards further learning.

"When there is no homework to do, the best homework is to play, read or go for a walk with their parents."

Oakleigh East mother Yetta Nelson said she became the student when helping daughter Isla, 7, with her maths homework.

"The way they teach mathematics now is very different to how I was taught — more often than not she is teaching me," Mrs Nelson said.

"The good thing about her teaching me is that I know it's learnt."

Mrs Nelson said she only helped with homework when Isla asked but still supervised her daughter's studies because she was easily distracted.

Helping around the house and playing were ways to include learning in everyday life

"I'll just ask her an equation and she'll just do that for me, so that's Maths, and she writes a lot of stories on her own, so that's English" Mrs Nelson said. "We do that all the time, I don't classify that as homework, that's just learning."

Kathryn Lewis, NewsCorp Australia

Ms Kirsten Smart NGL Coordinator

New Generation Learning Day

In previous years students have undertaken annually the Passion Day event where the community, staff and students were enlisted to build awareness and celebrate the Passion Principle.

This principle belongs to the New Generation Learning philosophy that underpins all learning at school...but what about the other three principles?

This year students will have the opportunity to celebrate all four principles of Clinical, Futures, Thinking and Passion by taking part in the 2018 New Generation Learning Day.

NGL Student Leaders will be gauging student interest of types of activities they would like to undergo, based on the overarching theme and the SCG Student Centred Vision; which is a document that keeps us unified as a school community.

Thinking Thelma has a task for SCG students...can you guess the theme for this year's NGL Day? The letters of each word are mixed up, but there still remains 5 words in the title. The NGL Student Leaders will have provided you with a few clues and may have already told you.

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The first student to come and see Miss Smart with the letters in correct sequence to form the name of the theme, will receive a prize. Miss Smart can be found in room A103 in the JS.

More information to come around this event will be provided closer to the date.

Dina Lira
Learning Resource Centre



A very BIG thank you to all the students, parents, carers and grandparents that visited the Book Fair last week. It was our biggest one yet with record sales of books for the School to add to the LRC spaces.

This has meant a great selection of books are now being added for all year levels and interests. Some Year 5 students have already put priority on particular titles they want to read as soon as possible! Here is a selection of books we will now add to both LRC spaces at SCG.



Michael Pell
Head of Sport (Years 7-12)

Year 8 Interschool Sports

On Monday 4 June, the Year 8 Netball and Soccer teams competed at the Maribyrnong Division Interschool Sports competition.

The boys soccer team faced Springside in their first match which played out to be a highly attacking game that resulted in a 3-3 draw. Dilan Kaya booted two goals while Chinmay Patil used his trademark speed to also put a score on the board.

Due to a forfeit, SCG played Springside a second time. The game was even throughout most of the first half while SCG were looking the more attacking side. Unfortunately Springside kicked a goal before half time.

The game looked all but lost until Dilan produced a nice finish to level the score with four minutes left. The game finished with a 1-1 draw but it wasn't enough for SCG to progress to the final. The boys collectively played well throughout the day and worked tirelessly in both games.

The girls netball team got off to a slow start, coming from 0-6 down in the first half of their game against Brookside B to register a 9-9 draw. From there the girls got a roll and were aided by a forfeit in their second game, followed by a 16-1 win over Footscray City and a 21-3 win over Maribyrnong College.

The girls ended up finishing top of their group and made it to the final against Creekside. Unfortunately for the girls they were outclassed by a bigger and stronger opponent and went down 22-13. A tremendous effort from the girls considering the start they had in their first game to come away with a second place overall for the competition.



Thisangi Abayaratne, Olivia Alexander, Tayla Bloor, Rebecca Dimovska, Molly Failli, Melissa Manno, Amelie Harrison, Abigael Ngugi, Cindy Nguyen, Esma Urun, and Emma Williams.

Road Safety

Please take care when travelling around our school's proximity – student safety is important and we must be reminded of the **legal 40km/h speed zone in and around schools**



Liam Odgen
PE & Outdoor Education (Years 5-9)

Year 8 ODE excursion

On the 29 May, the Year 8 Outdoor Education class went on an excursion to Organ Pipes National Park and Funtopia.

The day started with a 3km walk at Organ Pipes National Park where the class learnt about the history of the Park and how the 'organ pipe' rock formations were created.

Students also learnt about the animals that inhabited the area as well as the different management plans in place to ensure the environment remains healthy.



Our tour guide shared information about the park and its local fauna and flora throughout the walk. We were lucky enough to see some of the native animals in the park such as kangaroos, wallabies and different species of birds. We learnt about the native bats and sugar gliders and how they are conserved and protected within the park.

Many activities can be partaken in the park such as swimming, fishing, bushwalking and planting trees. The tour guide

explained to us that all the trees in the park were planted by students and volunteers many years ago.

The trees were not yet old enough to have natural holes in them for the bats and birds to live, so the park volunteers place specialised boxes onto the trees.

Students visited the organ pipes rock formation as well as the rosette rock formation within the park. Afterwards we climbed a steep hill which had everyone exhausted!

After lunch, we travelled to Funtopia in Maribyrnong. Funtopia is an indoor rock climbing facility where students learnt the basics of rock climbing.

We were taught how to safely use the harness before being able to go off on our own. Some of the rock walls were very difficult to climb as they had parts that moved or were very slippery.

Once our time was up the staff at Funtopia let Mr Ogden go on the vertical drop. He wore a minion onesie and a blindfold and was lifted by the arms until he let go and slid down.

Thanks to Mr Ogden and the staff at Organ Pipes and Funtopia for making our excursion so enjoyable.

By Amelie Harrison, Cindy Nguyen and Kiani Ulloa

