



The Southern Star

Southern Cross Grammar

Mr Andrew Ponsford
Principal

Semester 1 concludes tomorrow Friday 15 June and Semester 2 starts next week Monday 18 June.

How quickly time passes; our first semester just seems to have flown by! Everyone I talk to staff, parents and students has a similar comment to make.

It reinforces the importance of having a good plan and sticking to it as much as possible. It also points to the critical nature of understanding the big goals in the plan when everything else around us is moving so fast and has the ability to distract.

The upcoming break will allow all of us to do just that – reflect on the first two terms – and to recognise the good progress made and to identify the one or two aspects or ‘tweaks’ that can occur to generate further growth and achievement.

In the complex change environment that is the modern world I am also reminded of wise advice passed to me by my parents – that being of not wasting an opportunity!

Professional Development

Speaking of opportunities and complexity – I am thankful for the opportunity to participate in an international convention which will have at its heart the theme of ‘agility and nimbleness’.

A growing body of research is linking this behaviour to high performing leaders and organisations and how a leaders’ strategic thinking and decision making can remain fluid in a fast-changing, environment of continual complexity.

Linked to my previous leave in 2015 – ‘Good to Great’ theory (Jim Collins), I seek to further explore the concept of ‘Good to Great’ as part of ‘Built to Last’ and the creation of an enduring environment where one preserves the core values and purpose while adapting the operating strategies and practices to adapt to an ever quickening and changing world.

I look forward to sharing some of my learnings with you and building these into our strategic plans for the next 5 years.

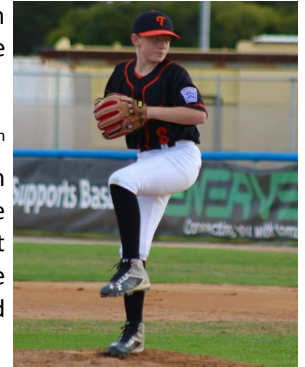
In my absence Ms Rennie and Mrs Baud, at different times, will act as Principal until my return mid holidays.

Congratulations

Zac Gorman competed in the Junior League U14 National baseball tournament in Adelaide which was held on Sunday 27 May – Friday 1 June. Zac was one of 14

players selected to play in a team comprising of players from the North Western side of Melbourne.

Zac’s team “The Twins” finished 4th out of 16 competing teams from around Australia, a remarkable effort playing against the best under 14 baseball players in the country. Congratulations Zac and The Twins team!



Mrs Julie Baud

Deputy Principal, Head of Teaching and Learning

Our Middle and Senior School students are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have approached their exams over the past 2 weeks.

All year levels have behaved appropriately when in the vicinity of the exam rooms and during exams and have willingly followed the supervisor’s instructions. I hope they are rewarded for their efforts when results are released over the next week.

It has been a valuable learning experience for all as we continue to develop and build our academic culture with the first cohort of students completing Year 12 this year.

The focus on exams is so important, given the current structure of the VCE, so this experience and preparation is vital if our students are to be successful.

Given it has been the first full exam period of this nature held on site, everyone involved should be congratulated. This includes our families who have, no doubt, provided the much needed support and assistance on the home front.

Our teachers will provide opportunities for the students to reflect on their performance and consider how they might approach exams even better next time.

Discussions will include how students could further challenge themselves, time management strategies and revision strategies.

Families are reminded of the following important event:

2019 Year 11 and 12 Information Night

Date: Tuesday 19 June

Time: 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Venue: VCE Centre in Rooms C102/C103/C104

All current Year 10 and Year 11 students and their parents / carers are strongly encouraged to attend. Information will be distributed on the evening.

Ms Louisa Rennie
Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Senior School Study Groups

On Thursday 31 May we held our first Study Group session, with a particular focus on Biology with 17 students attending. The feedback that they provided suggested that the Study Group added value to their home learning regime as the groups learned how to delegate and share tasks and teach one another to develop their own understanding.

All students have requested that the Study Group concept (using Elevate Education materials) continue and be adopted into other subject areas. With this in mind, our next Study Group will be held on Thursday 21 June, from 3:10pm – 4:10pm in the Careers Room. All Senior students are welcome.

Students will be:

- ◆ supported to form Study Groups
- ◆ taught how to participate in a Study Group
- ◆ taught explicit note taking skills using *Elevate Education* materials.

Students are encouraged to network with one another in the lead up to next Thursday, to plan which subject area they would like to focus on, and then ensure they have the notes and materials pertinent to the subject ready for the session.

This a unique opportunity to focus, receive specialist support, develop learner autonomy and build subject knowledge.

All students please RSVP your name, year level and subject area to bmacdonald@scg.vic.edu.au as soon as possible.

Semester 2

As you know, Semester 2 will formally begin on Monday 18 June. For our Senior School students this means new content, new topics, new beginnings. Following a busy exam period, all students are encouraged to be on time and ready to learn on Monday.

The next two weeks will set you up for a successful Term 3 and a strong finish to the year. Be prepared to develop effective relationships with your teachers so that together, you can focus on your learning needs.

PFA uniform shop

PFA uniform shop is now located in the **Junior School Learning Hub**. Cash or Card payments are accepted.

Open: Every Thursday 2.30pm- 4pm.
For assistance outside of this time please email pfa@scg.vic.edu.au

PFA have recently purchased additional display racks. We would appreciate any donation of regular clothes hangers and skirt hangers. Donations can be dropped off at Junior School reception. We thank you kindly for your support.

Jade Panozzo
Head of Sport (Years 3-6)

Well Done to Josie Woollard, Luca Spiteri, Ashton Dessmann and Kiro Georges who participated in the Keilor Division Cross Country Finals last Wednesday.

These students are to be congratulated on representing our local division and SCG proudly! Please see some pictures below.



Ms Romina Pimpini
Head of Junior School

What do you get when you combine
 1 Hub + 256 people + a large screen?
 A Maths-focused Junior School Assembly of course!

Mr Gauci, Mr Wildsmith and two of our JS Captains, Sophie Fosnaugh & Lukas Li Rosi led a fun-filled assembly where the focus was Maths in Life.

All JS students were sat within their Houses and the games began. We played Beach Ball Sums, whereby each team had to throw and catch a numbered beach ball and add-up the total. This was followed by Maths Splat, when NGL Captains from each House represented their team with honor.

As questions were answered, they had to run towards the screen and 'splat' their hand on the correct answer. Isla Abbott proved a strength in Maths for Alpha House in this round – Well done Isla!

Finally the annual teachers vs students Maths competition was on!

Students from all levels of the JS were nominated to challenge JS teachers in an array of Maths questions that we would encounter in everyday life. The teams consisted of:

Students	vs	Staff
Quentin Nguyen		Ms McKerrow
Hayley Im		Ms Temuskos
Wilson Vu		Mrs Hedditch
Alessandra Leong		Ms Bickford
Ben Harbour		Mr Wildsmith

After a tied round of questions with everyone answering correctly, a tie-break was needed. It came down to another round of *Splat* between Mr Wildsmith and Ben Harbour of Year 4.

Both were nominated by their respective team to represent in the finale....and the winner was the students! Ben's quick hands and mathematical mind were the winning combination.

Well done students – no doubt the Staff will be 'hitting the books' to sharpen up for the next challenge.

Of course, if you would like to improve your Maths skills or share in the love of learning Maths with your family, you might like to try these:

- <http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/search/maths%20games%20for%20kids>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- <https://au.ixl.com/>

