



The Southern Star

Southern Cross Grammar

Ms Louisa Rennie
Acting Principal

Acting roles

As you are aware, our Principal Mr Andrew Ponsford is currently on study leave. Congratulations and sincere thanks to my colleague Ms Trish Vu who has taken on Head of Senior School duties this week while I have acted on behalf of Mr Ponsford. Next week Mrs Julie Baud will take on the role of Acting Principal.

Best wishes

As a school community we extend our best wishes to Ms Sophie Macreadie for her wedding this Saturday. May the day be joyful and memorable and may it be the beginning of a long and happy life together – congratulations Sophie.

How do we best support young people to achieve success?

It is a common belief that guiding young people to focus on eliminating or minimising their weaknesses is an effective way of teaching them to be resilient. Strength-based research guides us to focus on building strengths, rather than reducing their weaknesses.

Strengths are:

- positive attributes or qualities that we perform well, and choose often.
- built over time through our natural ability and dedicated effort.
- qualities that are often acknowledged by others.

A strength-based approach enables us to use our strengths to shape a positive and fulfilling or purposeful life. When we act on our strengths, we model this to our children / students, assisting them to understand how they might do the same.

Using a strengths-based approach has a positive impact for all of us, including;

- greater levels of happiness and engagement at school or work
- smoother transitions through school
- higher levels of academic achievement or work performance
- enhanced relationships
- higher levels of physical fitness and of engaging in healthy behaviors
- better recovery after illness
- increased levels of life satisfaction and self-esteem
- reduced risk of depression
- enhanced ability to cope with stress and adversity.

We often focus on the negative, and this can be related to survival and adaptability, being conscious of things that might put us or our children at a disadvantage. Negative bias exists in all of us, and it must – it is actually a very useful life tool in times of crisis.

In the day to day routine though, young people need to develop skills of collaboration, reasoning, persistence, resilience and self-reflection. This requires their attention to be focused on positive attributes and behaviours.

Parents and teachers working together can uncover students strengths, so that they can be built on. When this happens, we build confidence in young people to transfer their learning about their strengths into other areas of their lives that might need to be improved or changed.

Ask your child about their strengths and what sort of interactions they are having with their teachers in relation to this. Connecting students to their strengths during tough times is one of the most powerful things we can do.

It develops resilience and grit – inner resources that are necessary when we face exams and heavy revision periods. Many of our students have been working incredibly hard this term and they are to be commended on their efforts in the recent mid-year exams.

The commencement of Semester 2 now calls upon us all to place a renewed focus on the learning journey. I sincerely wish all students well this Semester and challenge them to reflect on what actions they can put in place to achieve their best going forward. We as teachers, parents and lifelong learners, must commit to the same.

Mrs Julie Baud
Deputy Principal, Head of Teaching and Learning

Semester 2

Now that the very busy exam period is over and with Semester 2 underway, I am sure the Year 7-12 students and their families are looking forward to the upcoming holiday break.

It was an intense time for everyone as the school experienced its first full Year 7-12 exam period. Our students are to be commended on the manner in which they conducted themselves throughout this exam period and also the way in which they have commenced the new semester this week.

It isn't easy to start new units of work at VCE level, or different Year 8-10 subjects and electives, immediately after an extended exam period. It has been pleasing to see how engaged and focused they have been on their learning this week.

Reports

I encourage our families to spend time reflecting on the feedback in the Semester 1 reports. They will be available for collection from Reception in the Junior School from 9am Thursday 5 July.

Topics for discussion can include how to better prepare for the end of year exams, how class time might be used more effectively, why the achievement levels in some subjects are not as high as expected and strategies for more effective use of homework/study time.

2019 Information Nights

Planning is now underway for next year as the Information Nights have now been held for the 2019 Year 10, 11 and 12 students. Families should spend time over the holidays having conversations about possible subject choices and pathways for next year.

Each family should have a copy of the relevant Handbook(s) that contain the courses on offer in 2019 for each of these year levels.

Forms will be distributed to the 2019 Year 11 and 12 cohorts at the start of Term 3. The subject application process will then commence early in the term with interviews to discuss possible options and pathways.

Students unable to attend Tuesday's Information Night will be given a copy of the Handbook this week. Further details about this process will be available at the start of Term 3.

Ms Trish Vu

Acting Head of Senior School

I am grateful for the opportunity to act as Head of Senior School this week. I've witnessed some admirable behaviour after a busy exam period where students are choosing to focus their attention on Semester 2.

I had the opportunity to meet with the Student Executive and it was highly evident that they are committed to the school - I appreciated their thoughts and contributions to the meeting.

Senior School Study Groups

This afternoon's Study Group will be the last one for the term and they will commence again in Week 2 of Term 3. Study Groups enable students to develop collaborative skills and take ownership of their learning. We are keen to develop a regular Study Group Program in Term 3.

Please encourage your child to participate so that they can better understand the benefits.

Student Diary expectations

There will be a renewed focus on the use of the Student Diary in the Senior School for Semester 2. Renowned author John Steinbeck spoke of his diary as a tool of discipline, a hedge against self-doubt, and a pacemaker for the heartbeat of creative work.

The Purpose of the Southern Cross Grammar Student Diary is:

Organisation:

to assist our students to be well organised, record homework and assessment tasks, reminders and key messages pertinent to their learning and school events.

Communication:

to support home/school communication. Parents / Carers and teachers are encouraged to write notes in the diary, to communicate about the student and school events.

Information:

to provide our students and their Parents / Carers with general information about school procedures.

All students are expected to:

- treat the Student Diary as a professional document
- enter all information with care and accuracy
- carry their diary to all lessons
- enter their name and appropriate information on the first page of the diary
- enter accurate timetable information
- enter homework tasks on a daily basis
- enter assignments, due dates, study and revision commitments
- enter whole school events
- enter the Week / Term details at the top of every double page
- ensure that a parent signature is entered at the end of every week
- present the Student Diary to the Homeroom teacher for checking during Homeroom on Monday.

Homeroom Teachers

The homeroom teacher is critical to student success. Their role includes academic, pastoral and administrative oversight of students in respective year levels. Please direct communication to your child's homeroom teacher as a 'first port of call', so they can put measures in place to support your child where necessary.

Year 10.1	C104	Ms Lydia Brkic and Ms Angie Atal-Carreon
Year 10.2	C103	Mr Paolo Familiar and Ms Trish Vu
Year 11.1	C204	Mrs Deepti Rojiwadiya and Ms Evelyn Smith
Year 11.2	C203	Mr Alex Espinosa and Mrs Lee Oldham-Jones
Year 12.1	C202	Mr Tarik Kendjer and Ms Ally Richards

Uniform expectations

A reminder to all families that we seek to uphold high standards in the presentation of our uniform. There is still room for improvement in this area and we ask your support in guiding our students to make good decisions about the way in which they present themselves.

The Senior School Uniform Infringement Process continues and after school detention is held on Thursday afternoons for those Senior students who are not upholding the uniform expectations of the school. All students, especially Seniors, are encouraged to take the initiative to present themselves as representatives of Southern Cross Grammar. No warnings or reminders are issued.

Ms Janis Coffey
Head of Middle School

"Winter is a season for recovery and preparation." – Paul Theroux

This past week has been filled with tidying up Semester 1 and gearing up for Semester 2. Students have been reviewing their exam marks and reflecting on what has been this past semester.

It is a time to consider how our efforts, time, and energy have impacted the outcomes that are now being written up in Semester 1 reports. This holiday break is an opportunity to rejuvenate and get ready for Term 3 with renewed energy and gusto.

Students, take the time to rest and to get ready for a new start in a few weeks' time. Healthy eating, sleep, and balanced daily dosages of screen time are important to keep in mind. I look forward to seeing you all return on Tuesday 17 July 2018 for the commencement of Term 3.

Year 9 Camps

Next week our Year 9 students will be attending various camps in Melbourne, Hong Kong and Broome. I also wish all of the Year 9 Students an eventful week of camping activities.

From urban abseiling to traditional Hong Kong baking classes, the varied array of experiences on offer are bound to challenge and extend students' insights and understanding about culture in the coming weeks. Be safe, be responsible and most of all, have fun!

Chess

All students, Years F-12, are welcome to join the after School Chess sessions in Term 3, held on Monday afternoons. Parents are encouraged to sign up with Kids Unlimited, using the following link:

https://ku.zone/explore?school_id=10835&booking_id=1970



SELECT SCHOOL

Southern Cross (Caroline Springs) x v

Term 3, 2018 - Chess

Cost: \$110 tuition per student

Chess, Term 3, 2018 : 8 lessons starting Mon 23 Jul

03:15pm

Enrol

Ms Romina Pimpini
Head of Junior School

Futures Freddy was in full flight this past week with students of the Junior School engaging in Robotics learning.



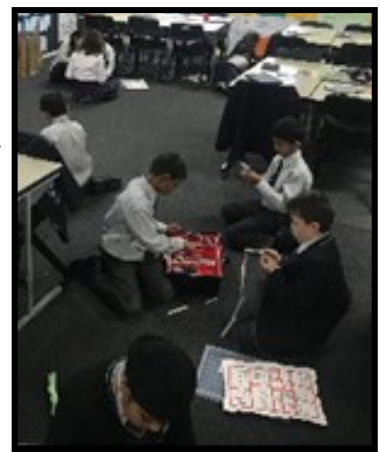
Students worked in small groups to design, build and program a robotic machine. Following this they used their iPad to control its movement and negotiate an obstacle course and time trial set-up in the JS Hub.



Liam Ennis and Dillon Emini of Year 4 share their thoughts about the Robotics Program in the Junior School.

The two best things about working with Robotics was:

- Assembling and playing with the Lego and building the robots
- Cooperating and working as a group to make the robot work and achieve its goals



Of course, we were faced with some challenges and the most challenging part was programing the robot to work exactly as we want, but working together with other students, we could usually figure it out!

Uniform Reminders

As the term draws to a close, it is a great time for families to conduct an audit of uniform items in readiness for a warm and smart-start to next term.

A reminder that winter uniform is required once again in Term 3, and should include:

- Blazer to be worn to and from school each day by students in Year 3 and above
- Wind protection jacket for students in Years F-2 for warmth
- Scarves or beanies may be worn outside – and should be plain black in colour (no marks, ticks or logos)
- PE Uniform complete with tracksuit top
- Please note – school jumpers must not be worn with the PE uniform

As is the case with all students from Years F-12, if a student is not wearing the correct uniform, a uniform infringement notice will be issued and consequences apply.

Absences

Just a reminder that if your child is absent from school please call reception on 8363 2000 or email admin@scg.vic.edu.au to advise the school of their absence.

Lost Property

The lost properties will be cleaned out during the holidays, please ensure that all items are collected by the last day Friday 29 June.

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.



**Are you ready
SCG students
Years 1-6?
Look out for a
BIG announcement...
iPads ready?
Spelling brain ready?
Watch this space!**