



# The Southern Star

## Southern Cross Grammar

### Mrs Julie Baud Acting Principal

As this very busy term comes to an end, I would like to thank and recognise all of our staff, teaching and non-teaching, for their efforts and contributions to the life of the school. Their hard work and dedication over the past 11 weeks has been commendable, as has the manner in which they have coped with the extra demands placed on them; many of which are characteristic of a young and growing school.

In particular, Louisa Rennie, Rajnesh Ram, Megan Unthank, Angie Atal Carreon and Trish Vu should be recognised for so capably taking on the additional responsibilities of Acting Principal, Acting Head of Teaching and Learning, Acting Head of Middle School, Acting Learning Leader for Science/STEM and Acting Head of Senior School respectively during Andrew Ponsford's absence.

The hard work will not be over for some staff until they return over the next few days from the Year 9 camps in Melbourne, Broome and Hong Kong. The news received throughout the week has indicated all students and staff have been thoroughly enjoying themselves and learning a great deal from each other and their surroundings.

These have been wonderful opportunities, providing experiences that will remain with our students for a very long time. I thank our staff for giving up their time to organize and lead these camps.

I would also like to thank our families for their ongoing support. The partnership between the school and home is such an important one. It helps build the foundations for an effective education and a successful future for our students. It also helps facilitate a strong community spirit and a sense of belonging that we strive to develop amongst all members of our community.

I wish our families all the best for a safe and relaxing holiday and hope there are opportunities for some quality family time over the next two weeks. Students studying VCE subjects are encouraged to take some time out and relax, but to also use some of the time for reflection, organizing notes, further revision and identifying any areas in need of improvement.

### Reminders

Semester 1 reports will be available for collection from Reception during the holidays from Thursday 5 July.

Term 3 commences **Tuesday 17 July** at the customary time.

### Ms Louisa Rennie Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

### Year 3/4 Studies Revision

Parents of students engaged in 3/4 Studies have received detail via email of July holiday Headstart Lectures and Term 3 Revision Lectures with **Connect Education** and **The School for Excellence** (TSFX). All 3/4 Studies students are encouraged to make the most of the chance to engage in revision during the holiday break, and enrol to attend the after school sessions in the early part of Term 3. Further Term 3 opportunities will be advertised early next term.

### Senior School Assembly

All parents are welcome to attend our end of Term assembly, to be held in the VCE Centre, from 2:10pm tomorrow, Friday 29 June. Senior School students will be dismissed at the end of the assembly.

### Thank you

I would like to thank Ms Trish Vu very much for recently taking on the role of Head of Senior School. It was encouraging to be able to rely on a capable leader to take on various aspects of the role. Thank you Trish for your leadership.

### Professional leave

I am grateful to have the opportunity to take professional leave in Week 1 of Term 3. During this time I will be delivering presentations at various European universities on a book I have recently co-authored. The book, titled *"I'm the Principal": Principal learning, action, influence and identity (2018)* <https://shop.acer.edu.au/i-m-the-principal> is an extended interview study of 50 principals across Australian schools and sets out to better understand what it takes to be an effective school Principal today.

Much has been written about educational leadership - and various standards and frameworks have endeavoured to capture what effective principals are expected to know, understand and be able to do. While the Australian Professional Standard for Principals has framed the study and the interview questions that were asked of principals, the project focused on real people and their experiences within this construct, to look at Principals in action across varying sectors, contexts and settings.

### Acting Head of Senior School

During my absence, Mr Joseph Hedditch will act as Head of Senior School. He will be available to students and parents during that week, please direct your enquiries to him. Thank you Joe for stepping into the role and sharing your leadership skills with our community.

Best wishes to all students and families for the Term 2 holiday break, I look forward to seeing you all upon my return, on Monday 23 July.

**Rajnesh Ram**

**Acting Head of Teaching and Learning**

### **The essence of school holidays**

The school holidays are upon us and the break from school provides assorted opportunities for students and teachers. It has been stressed by psychologists, like Freud and Piaget, that play is a principal component in the formation of a complete individual.

School holidays provide an opportunity for students to engage in play by exploring the world around them and participating in activities that may be restricted during the school term.

Reading is an activity that provides mental stimulation and Southern Cross Grammar students are strongly encouraged to take up reading, especially if they are not assigned homework tasks.

These holidays should also provide an opportunity for students to exercise their minds by accessing quality educational experiences, instead of just languishing in front of glowing screens.

For the VCE students, the holidays provide an opportunity to consolidate their knowledge and understanding. The consolidation process allows them to look back at the topics taught in Semester 1 and fill in the gaps in memory to prepare for the examinations in November.

During the VCE examinations, its not only the mind that is tested, but also the writing skills. VCE students are strongly encouraged to practice writing during the holidays as part of the preparations for their examinations.

For teachers, the holidays provide an opportunity to slow down and restore their emotional resources and psychological health. Holidays also provide an opportunity for the teachers to rest their vocal cords and plan for the impending educational challenges in the semester ahead. Wishing all a safe holiday.



### **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](https://ku.zone/explore?school_id=10835&booking_id=1970)



SELECT SCHOOL

Southern Cross (Caroline Springs) ✕ ▼

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**

As the mornings have become cooler and the grass adorned with dew, the term is coming to a close and there is so much you can do.

While learning for the first semester has concluded, we must remember that our students, your children, are on a continuum in our F-12 setting. Given this, every year, each semester and individual day is an opportunity to learn, strengthen or improve something we have.

I hope families will make some time to look back on this semester and share highlights and think with a positive outlook to the remainder of 2018.

Upon collecting reports could be a wonderful time to;

- ◆ reflect on what has gone well
- ◆ think about what could improve
- ◆ refer to the SCG Student Centred Vision and gauge success beyond a mark or a category
- ◆ plan ways to be successful next term (in class, in the school yard, at home).

**Positive Education News**

3AB have been working on problem solving this term, learning various skills around finding the right words, having a difference of opinion with a friend and managing their emotions when things don't go their way.

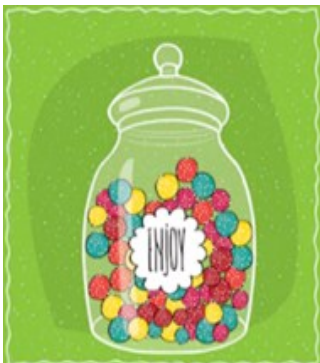
Identifying how they can influence the happiness of others was also a great discovery, and, from this, the class decided to create a "Junior School Joy Jar".

From Term 3, this Joy Jar will sit at Reception, and, students are invited to collect a hand-made card filled with "joy" if they need a little pick-me-up. These cards and their instructions have been compiled from the Year 3's ideas and expository writing they have been developing.

*"The Joy Jar is meant to be a symbol for when you are feeling a little bit sad or wanting to feel more joyful.*

*All you need to do is collect a card, read it and action it for a bit of joy to feel happy again. The joy jar will be launched in Term 3 and you can keep the card that you take out".*

*Ruby & Charlie, 3AB*



Term 2 has been abound with opportunities for students to engage in school life, both within and beyond the classroom. While students' daily routine may slightly shift over the next two weeks, family discussion about school, friendships, problem solving and respect are all worthy to maintain the ongoing work we do at SCG.

I hope every family is able to enjoy some *family time* over the break – a very worthwhile investment for all!

<https://familypeace.org.au/the-power-of-family-rituals/>

1. iPads ready?
2. Spelling brain ready?
3. Years 1-6...SET... GO!

This year SCG has once again entered the Literacy Planet Word Mania Competition.



**How to Play**

Word Mania is an interactive online word building game. Players are given a board of 15 randomly generated letters, and have three minutes to create as many words as they can. Every valid word formed earns points. Longer and more

complex words score higher, and scores can be boosted by building valid words consecutively, and using special Gold and Diamond letter tiles. Word building uses various literacy skills: phonemes, morphemes including affixes and plurals, spelling, word recognition, vocabulary and word knowledge.

Students can play as many times as they like, and the sum of the highest 50 game scores by at least five students from the same grade will be our school's score for that year level.

Classroom teachers will give their students a unique password to get started, so you might use the holidays to:

- ◆ Download the App (it's free)
- ◆ Practice your word-building
- ◆ Remind your friends to join the competition
- ◆ Keep your iPad charged up.

Competition Round 1 runs from Monday, July 30 - Friday, August 3. Let's hope you can help everyone at SCG become "Word Maniacs".

**Ms Lorraine Macdonald & Ms Shannon Gallaway**  
**Yr 5 Classroom Teachers**

Last Friday the Year 5's hosted a History Fair. Students were asked to create an inquiry on a topic about Australia in the 1800s. Parents, teachers and students were invited to come see the hard work we put into our historical inquiries. We had inquiries about the Gold Rush to the Eureka stockade, with tons of interesting exhibits and fascinating information. The Year 5's had a great time presenting to everyone!

*Tayah Roberts and Jessica Dimovska*

In week 10 we had a History Fair - we invited parents and students to see what we have developed throughout term 2. We were all really proud of what we had done, so there was no reason to not share it with our community. We had prepared an inquiry with a main question and some minor questions. Most people had made posters and some did it electronically.

We had to include some words like importance/significance and what the impact of their event/person was. It had to be a multimodal – something to hear, see, touch, and smell were the options. Most people brought some props that were involved with their project. Lots of people got positive feedback and some gave improvements and parents had to ask about how our inquiry impacted colonial Australia and Australians. That's how we ended term 2.

*Monty Madan and Dylan Vuu*



The history fair was fun and bold,  
When people came young and old.  
Everyone has come to see,  
The great event done by me!

Ned Kelly was a good lad,  
Even though he was bad.  
He travelled with the Kelly Gang,  
Until they split with a BANG!

He built iron armour,  
That was used when there was drama.  
He got hanged in old Melbourne Gaol  
"Such is Life" he'd say,  
Bush rangers life was never long in those early days.

He met Harry Power when he was just a boy,  
And tried to steal some horses with a small decoy.  
He sold horses to get a legal bill of sale,  
But protesters wanted to bail.

I made a game for you to play,  
Even if it took all day.  
I also made a presentation,  
That joined every single nation.

You jumped and walked and slid around,  
Until you were nowhere to be found.  
You knew what to do,  
With your friends beside you.

You had a big laugh,  
Stretching up like a Giraffe.  
I knew that everyone would enjoy,  
It was even better than a toy!

Now that the fair has begun,  
We will be able to have fun.  
Year 4's and 3's came looking with glee,  
At all the wonderful things they see!  
*History Fair by Mia Cook*





# Year 9 Camp Experiences

