



The Southern Star

SOUTHERN CROSS
GRAMMAR

Southern Cross Grammar

Mr Andrew Ponsford
Principal

School website

I would like to draw your attention to our new website, which can be found at www.scg.vic.edu.au.

This new website seeks to capture the true spirit of our school—high standards, warmth and the pursuit of excellence within the guiding influences of our New Generation Learning model and the Student-Centred Vision.

I particularly encourage you to view the new student video on the homepage (shown below).

It is most uplifting to observe the unscripted enthusiasm and pride our students display for their School.

The updating of this website is an important demonstration of our commitment to continual improvement under a banner that I regularly reference; the commitment of 'good to great'.

I thank School Board Members, the Southern Cross Grammar Marketing Committee, and the Executive Team, for the significant work undertaken here under the leadership and encouragement of Mr Frank Filippone.

Robotics success

Mr Rajnesh Ram is to be warmly congratulated for his leadership and encouragement of this important learning area.

More details of the SCG Robotics Team's second-place win in the RoboCup Jnr Melbourne Regional Onstage competition can be found on page 4.

Emergency procedures

Today, a nearby school actioned lockdown procedures as a precautionary measure.

I advise you that the lockdown of that neighbouring school has been lifted. All students are safe.

All decisions were made following the advice and support of local police.

SCG sent out two alerts via email and one alert on Facebook to the school community today to make you aware of the situation. At no time was SCG at risk.

Your thanks and feedback given on Facebook was much appreciated.

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Come and experience the difference

We provide a learning environment where students feel safe, valued and listened to.

Book A Tour Today

Ms Louisa Rennie
Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School

Rigour

In schools, we talk about rigour as being evident in what our students do. Rigour is not a fixed entity, it is measured by a student's capacity to demonstrate their depth in understanding.

I have heard it said, that rigour is not a result, it is a reason. In the words of FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi, considered one of the world's best footballers:

'In football as in watchmaking, talent and elegance mean nothing without rigour and precision.'

At SCG, we continue to reflect on how we challenge our students to think, perform, and grow to a level that they were not at previously. It means that students must work, like a practicing athlete, to build their skills, understanding, and thinking power so that they can achieve at higher and higher levels. In turn, the standards of what they are learning are calibrated to compel our students to grow.

Our task as teachers is to also encourage resilience and provide affirming instructive feedback that guides growth. Establishing rigour can be considered a three-stage process: setting the standard for students; equipping students to achieve success; and students demonstrating their understanding and achievement.

Barbara Blackburn and Ronald Williamson's 2010 book 'Rigorous Schools and Classrooms: Leading the Way' identifies ways in which we, as educators, facilitate that process by seeking to create:

- Classroom environments that endorse high performance,
- A learning place where teachers believe in the potential of our students,
- Learning that is designed to create opportunities for students to demonstrate their understanding,
- Opportunities to share examples of outcomes of varying standards so students can visualise what success looks like,
- Materials that are instructional and organised,
- Content that is relevant and relatable,
- Ongoing communication with students and parents about progress,
- Time for teachers to assist and support students.

Connect Education Exam Lectures

This week our 3/4 Studies students have started attending Exam Lectures from 3:30pm – 6:30pm. The purpose of these lectures is to provide our students with a different voice to reinforce teaching of key content, as well as concrete strategies they can use to prepare for and complete their end of year exams.

The lectures have been developed in partnership with our teaching staff to focus on the areas that will most benefit our students leading into their exams, and will continue through until Week 4 of this term.

Well done to the many Senior School students who have registered their attendance. We are proud of you!

F – Year 12 Student Progress Interviews

Information will soon be available for parents and students to schedule meetings with Semester 2 teaching staff to discuss student progress. Occurring in Week 4, F - Year 12 Student Progress Interviews will be held on Tuesday 7 August from 3:30pm – 8:00pm and Thursday 9 August from 9:30am – 8:00pm.

Students are expected to attend all classes on Tuesday as per the regular timetable. 3/4 Studies students (some Year 11 students and all Year 12 students) are expected to attend all classes on Thursday.

For other students, it is a non-teaching day. This does not mean, however, that Thursday is void of learning. Rather, it is expected that all students attend their own Student Progress Interview.

The interview is for students and about students, a time for three-way communication, for students to learn about their progress to date, and for them to learn strategies to maximise success and make a strong finish to the academic year.

We look forward to welcoming parents and students to our Student Progress Interviews.

Students are expected to be in full winter uniform, including their blazer, for their interview.

Further details, including login details for booking interviews, will be provided soon.

Mrs Julie Baud
Deputy Principal and Head of Teaching and Learning

The Subject Application interviews for the 2019 Year 11 and Year 12 students have been held each night this week. These meetings have been a good opportunity for Senior School students and their parents to meet with some of our staff to discuss possible future pathways and VCE courses they are considering enrolling in next year.

It is important to have these discussions before making any decisions about subjects, as many tertiary courses have prerequisites, or subjects that must be studied in Year 12 prior to being considered for entry.

Families are reminded that, to follow up the interviews, the 2019 Year 11 and Year 12 Subject Application Form B, which lists the students' final preferences, is to be submitted on or before Monday 30 July. The forms can be left in the tray outside my office in the Senior School.

Subject Application Interviews for the current Year 9 students will be held in Week 5 of this term, 3.30pm – 6.30pm, from Monday 13 August – Thursday 16 August. Year 9 families will receive information about these interviews next week, and further details will be available the week prior to the interviews.

Students are also encouraged to attend Open Days at the different universities and tertiary institutions, in order to explore what they have on offer and to find out if there are any prerequisites for their preferred course (s). Details can be found on each institution's website.

Families interested in meeting with the Pathways Coordinator, Mr Paolo Familiarì, to discuss specific programs, tertiary courses or alternative pathways should contact him via email at pfamiliarì@scg.vic.edu.au.

Ms Janis Coffey
Head of Middle School

Designing Your Learning

At Southern Cross Grammar, we continuously work to align our practice to our roots of New Generation Learning. The NGL Framework articulates the following:

'Today's students come from a generation like no other. Their learning needs and styles in an information-saturated society are profoundly different to the needs of previous generations. They live in a technologically-directed world that has no precedent. Their family dynamics are more diverse, more complex and frequently more uncertain than other generations have known.

They will shortly, as adults, confront global and Australian challenges that are unique in our history. They will engage in vocations and careers that reflect a knowledge economy that is unique to the 21st century.

Our students must be equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills requisite for success in a rapidly-changing, technological world.'

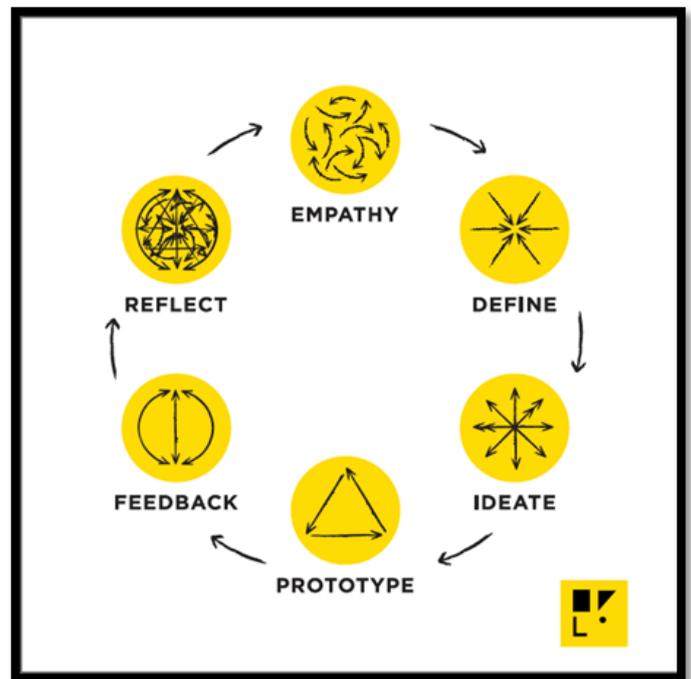
But what does learning for a new generation look like?

During the school holidays, I trekked across the globe to the home of innovation, where some of the first cars were developed and the sound of Motown invented—the city of Detroit.

I was lucky to receive a grant to complete a study course for educators at the Henry Ford School of Design Thinking.

The Design Thinking process aims to develop students' abilities to find creative solutions to problems, following a human-centred design model. Radical collaboration and mental stamina are two key features students learn to develop using this process.

These skills and attitudes translate into rich learning for students, and reflect what employers and universities identify as much-needed 21st-century skill sets.



Design Thinking is featured in our Year 9 curriculum where students spend a trimester doing a deep dive into this model as a part of New Generation Learning.

Current Year 7 and Year 8 students and parents can learn more about MS curriculum offerings at the 2019 Subject Information Evening on 23 August 2018 at 6pm.

Mark your calendars!

Ms Romina Pimpini
Head of Junior School

To start our term, we have acknowledged the great work of so many students, and announced our Class Captains.

It really is an honour to be chosen by your classmates to hold a leadership role that puts you in a position to make a difference for others.



The Class Captains

We wish our Class Captains every success for their contribution to the SCG community for this term.

FRM	Jayden Tran & Sebastian Lambous
FBU	Natalie Nguyen
1SK	Orlando Perre
1VT	Yuvraj Bagga
2LH	Amelia Hok
2KS	Bryan Tran
3AB	Kayla Vasilevski
3CG	Max Hendaheva
4DM	April Clark
4DW	Zayaan Tabish

Congratulations to the above students:

At our Assembly, we also spoke about our own personal goal-setting and Personal Goal Plans. These goals, based on the Student-Centred Vision, are important in students' growth as learners and in their development as thinkers.

Students will commence reviewing and updating their Personal Goal Plans, which they may be able to discuss during their Student Progress Interviews in Week 4.

A reminder about wet weather and winter days

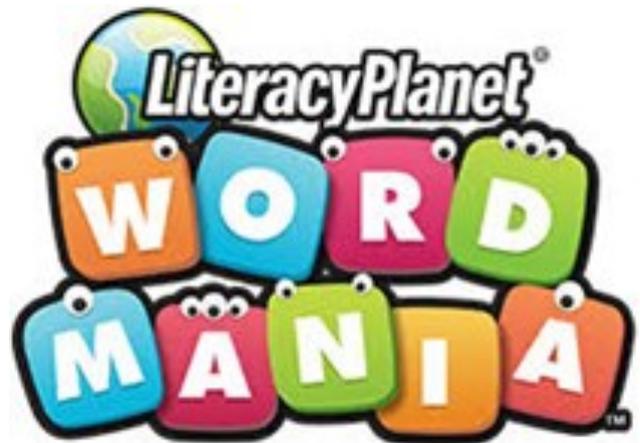
Given that the winter weather is upon us, when days are deemed 'wet weather', we experience increased traffic in the Junior School Hub, both morning and afternoon.

Therefore, we ask that on these days, students line up inside the JS Building, along the wall immediately outside of their classroom with their bag.

Parents and carers are asked to 'kiss and drop' on these occasions in order to assist with the traffic flow as we start and end our day.

This help from parents and carers will allow learning to start promptly, and will ensure children can maintain their focus in classes to maximise learning time.

Word Mania

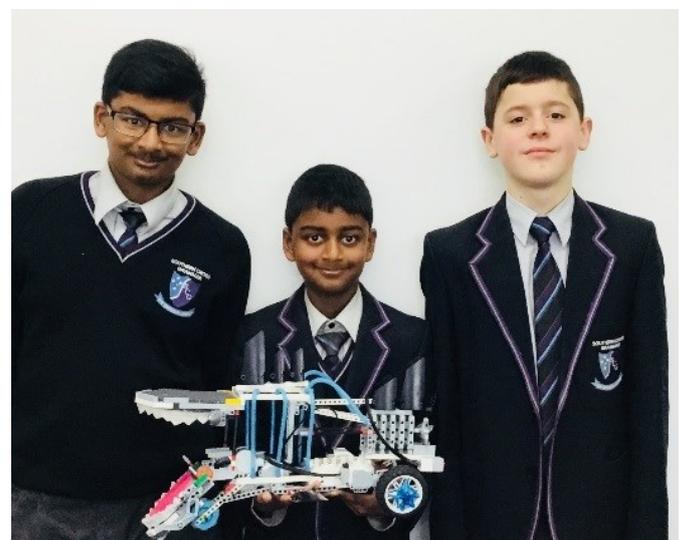


Don't forget to have fun practising creating the best words you can using the Word Mania App. The competition starts in just a few days on Monday 30 July.

F - Year 6 students, do your best and help SCG with pride in this competition.

**Rajnish Ram
Learning Area Leader for Science, STEM and Computing**

SCG Robotics Team achieves greatness



The robotics team posing with Stanley the shark bot

Congratulations to the SCG Robotics Team for achieving second place in the RoboCup Jr Melbourne Regional Onstage competition at Sacre Coeur on Saturday 21 July.

Ved Padmawar, Yash Padmawar and Ethan Veljanovski, shown above, competed against twenty-five of the best of Melbourne's school robotics teams. All the best to the three team members as they progress to the Victoria State Finals, and will now be competing against the best in the state.



5.2/5LM students using Word Mania

Year 3 and Year 4 Robotics

As part of the STEM initiative at SCG, a brief robotics program was introduced for Years 3 and 4 last term, under the guidance of Mr Damien Morrison and Ms Amy Bickford.

This program introduced the students to various aspects of the STEM pedagogical process, and provided them with an avenue to display their analytical skills.

Lorraine Macdonald Head of English (F - Year 6) and Middle School Teacher

The Word Mania Competition is set to start in four days on 30 July. For approximately four weeks now, SCG students from Year 1 to Year 6 have been practicing like crazy, and are definitely becoming word maniacs.

Skill winners are calculated across both Round 1 and 2—schools that top the skill leader board for their region at the end of both competition rounds receive a special LiteracyPlanet Word Mania 2018 certificate.

Schools that place first on the regional skill leader board for Years 1 to Year 6 win two Teacher Starter Ultimate Plan Licences for their school.

All schools that place first on their region's skill leader board for their year level at the end of the competition become national finalists, and become eligible to compete for the major prizes in the final round!

The competition opens on Monday 30 July and will close on 10 August. Current ranking within Melbourne's West is shown below.

Great going everyone, keep it up!

	Skill - Practice	Participation - Practice
Year 1	4th	3rd
Year 2	3rd	14th
Year 3	2nd	3rd
Year 4	12th	20th
Year 5	6th	3rd
Year 6	3rd	2nd

Sophie Comber Communications Coordinator

Greetings to all members of the SCG community.

I have taken over responsibility for the school website and for *The Southern Star*. As such, I am pleased to invite you to explore our impressive new website, which is displayed on the cover page of this newsletter edition.

We ask for your patience if you observe aspects of the website which you believe should be updated or changed. It is currently a work in progress.

Any suggestions and feedback you may have would be valued. Please email admin@scg.edu.au.

The Parents and Friends' Association

Are you ready to rock in the Junior School Hub? Then join us for the 2018 Junior School Disco, proudly brought to you by the PFA! The event begins at 5.30pm on Friday 24 August.

Please note there will be designated drop-off/collection points this year to ensure the smooth movement of attendees. Students in F – Year 2 are asked to enter and exit via the Main Reception Doors. Students in Year 3 and Year 4 are asked to enter and exit via the Northern (Playground) Entrance of the Junior School Building.

This year, the date coincides with Daffodil Day, so \$1 from every ticket will be donated to the Cancer Council. To embrace Daffodil Day, we are asking our Junior School Disco Dancers to wear something yellow. Tickets are \$15 per child, and include a drink, two slices of pizza, glow sticks and lots of fun. Bookings may be made at <https://www.trybooking.com/XDUN>.

The class that has the most students registered for the Colour Run will have exclusive access to the VIP Area at the Junior School Disco.

Classes that are currently in the running are 4DW, FBU, 1SK and 3CG. The Colour Run has been rescheduled to November 2, so please register at www.myprofilepage.com.au.