



Mr Andrew Ponsford Principal

Strategic planning

Last weekend the SCG Board and Executive Team reviewed our current Strategic Plan. This is an important exercise of looking back and then looking forward, and setting key areas of direction and intent.

The day was facilitated by one of Independent Schools Victoria's key consultants, whose perspective and industry knowledge was certainly of benefit.

I look forward in time to being able to share our deliberations with the SCG community.

Pastoral care, wellbeing and mindfulness

As part of the continuing work of external facilitator, John Hendry AM, we have continued to explore these themes as we seek to extend our understandings and skills in the area of supporting the pastoral care of students and colleagues.

I found the Monday session led by Ms Coffey, which focused on character strengths, to be interesting and highly relevant.

I encourage readers to explore this area further using the following link: www.viacharacter.org. More insights are also contained in Ms Coffey's section of this edition.

Having the ability to see others as possessing all twenty-four character strengths (some being underused, others overused or employed in an optimal fashion), rather than having the ability to understand strengths as 'strengths and weaknesses'—is a very powerful and important perspective for staff and parents to adopt when working with young people.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students who have progressed to significant levels of competition recently:

RoboCup Junior State Competition—Mia Cook (Year 5), Dhruv Menon (Year 5), Grace Muneretto (Year 10), Yash Padmawar (Year 5), Trisha Ram (Year 6), Luca Spiteri (Year 5).

VPSSA Regional Hockey Championships—Zali Heenan (Year 5), Zara Joachimiak (Year 6), Joseph Iulianella (Year 6), Mackenzie Morgan Leheny (Year 5), Marie Sarkatzis (Year 6), Jaskanwar Sekhon (Year 6), Rhianna Tasevska (Year 5), Lucas Thuema (Year 5), Leo Xu (Year 6).

Coen Sykes (Year 6) was absent for this competition due to his involvement for the Victorian State Team at the same time.

Australian Maths Competition—congratulations to the more than sixty SCG students who were invited to participate this week.



Results are not known at this stage. Special thanks to Ms Vu and to the Maths Department for preparing our students for this event.

Ms Louisa Rennie
Deputy Principal
Head of Senior School (10 - 12)

Spotlight on Muneib Rauf



Muneib joined SCG in 2013 as a Year 7 student.

A highlight for Muneib during his time at Southern Cross Grammar were the numerous school camps he participated in, as well as the opportunity to specialise in certain subjects of interest to him, such as VCE Chemistry.

Muneib notes some of his challenges this year have included adhering to a strict study timetable and ensuring he is organised at home and at school, in order to achieve his best.

Muneib is aiming to secure a place at Monash

University in an undergraduate course to study Medicine.

In the upcoming months, Muneib aims to increase his hours of study and revision to fully prepare for his VCE exams. He is confident in his work ethic, and hopes to further increase his academic performance.

Muneib continues to work hard to achieve his goals, and we are proud of him!

Spotlight on Lily Mirabito



Lily joined the Southern Cross Grammar family in 2012, when she was in Year 6. Lily's highlight so far in her schooling journey was the Year 12 Leadership Retreat, during which she expanded her leadership skills and bonded with her peers.

Lily has enjoyed Literature and Health and Human Development this year, and studies best when she is stress-free and organised. One of the challenges of her Year 12 life has been tackling multiple SACS within the span of a few days.



At the end of Year 12, Lily plans on taking an extraordinary three-month trip, starting in November in Vietnam, then travelling through countries in Europe including, Croatia, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Italy and Switzerland, then concluding her adventure in February in Indonesia.

Once she returns, Lily plans to undertake a Bachelor of Arts at The University of Melbourne, and is leaning towards majoring in Art History or Communication. She is nervous about the upcoming months and end-of-year exams, however plans to remain on top of her studies by prioritising time management and organisation.

Lily has thoroughly enjoyed the time she has spent at Southern Cross Grammar and is excited for the future.

Connect Education Lectures

Last night we held our final 3/4 Exam Revision Lecture with Connect Education. Thank you to the many parents, students and staff who supported this trial initiative. We will conduct a short survey to garner feedback. This will assist us to evaluate the effectiveness of the opportunity and make plans for continuous improvement.

Term 3 holiday lectures

All VCE students are strongly encouraged to explore options for holiday lectures. There are many on offer in the city and VCE teaching

staff can also offer their expert opinion on where students will gain the most value. Students engaged in VCE 3/4 Studies may like to avail themselves of opportunities on offer at TSFX: <http://www.tsfx.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/TSFX-VIC-Essentials-Brochure-2018-FINAL-WEB.pdf>.

When making bookings, be mindful of the VCE 3/4 Trial exams that are taking place at SCG from Monday 1 October to Thursday 4 October. These exams are compulsory for all students engaged in VCE 3/4 Studies. They are set to occur in the third week of the September Term break.

Students engaged in VCE 1/2 Maths Methods, English and Chemistry, please make a note of the free lectures being offered by TSFX on 28 September: <http://www.tsfx.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/TSFX-VCE-Year11-Exam-Revision-2018-FINAL.pdf>.

Mrs Julie Baud
Deputy Principal
Head of Teaching and Learning (F - 12)

2019 Year 10 Subject Application Process

This week's 2019 Year 10 Subject Interviews have been really enjoyable.

It has been lovely to have so many engaging and inspiring conversations with our current Year 9 students and their parents about their options for the future. These students are fortunate to have so many possibilities they can explore, both in



their senior years and for life beyond school. It is important our students consider as many options as possible, as they will enter a complex and rapidly-changing world after leaving school, so flexibility and adaptability will be some of the skills looked upon highly by prospective employers.

Thank you to the families that attended these interviews. Your support in this area is appreciated. I hope you found these discussions productive and beneficial.

Year 9 students should remember to return their form containing details of their final subject preferences for Year 10 in 2019 as soon as possible after their interview, and no later than Friday 24 August.

Middle School Information Night for 2019 Year 8 and 9 students

I encourage families with students currently in Year 7 and 8 to attend the Information Night to be held in the Junior School Hub from 6.00pm on Thursday 23 August.

Presentations will include details of the curriculum and elective offerings for the 2019 Year 8 and 9 students as well as other details about the Middle School program.

NAPLAN

The 2018 NAPLAN results should be received by

the school in the coming weeks. Families of Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 and Year 9 students should be aware it is our intention to package these results with the Progress Reports at the end of Term 3.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, students in 3.1, 5.1, 7.2 and 9.1 will be completing the online 'NAPLAN Readiness Test' on Tuesday 28 August and will have received the relevant details.

It is important to remember this is a Process trial only and the results are not utilised.

These trials will assist us with our preparations for NAPLAN Online, which commences in 2019.

Ms Janis Coffey Head of Middle School (5 - 9)

2019 Subject Selection Evening for Current Year 7 and Year 8 Students

Next week our 2019 Year 8 and 9 Subject Selection Evening will take place on Thursday 23 August.

This is an opportunity for our current Year 7 and Year 8 students and their families to talk with the Learning Area Leaders and explore what subjects will be offered next year.

This will inform students' decisions, in partnership with their parents and teachers, on what choices they will make for the next academic year.



I encourage all current Year 7 and 8 students and their parents to attend to learn about subject choices and pathways into Senior School. The choices made now in Middle School will set the path forward for VCE subject applications in Year 9 for their Year 10 subjects.

One subject that I would like to highlight to Middle School students is Chinese. If you are wondering whether studying another language will be of benefit to you, there is plenty of research that would say it will. A number of studies have shown that people who are bilingual have strengthened executive function capabilities. This means that studying another language enhances your mental flexibility, including the ability to concentrate, solve problems, and empathise with others.

If improving your mental capacities isn't enough to sway you towards studying Chinese, you might also consider that Languages studied at the VCE level will boost your ATAR score. As a result of government policy to encourage the study of languages, a further adjustment is made during the scaling process. This is a great benefit for students studying languages at the senior years.

Character Strengths

This week, staff explored the research behind Character Strengths using the resources and online survey from the Values in Action Institute. Understanding our signature strengths as well as spotting strengths in others can assist

in improved life satisfaction and enhanced relationships with others.

In our session, staff discovered that some of our collective signature strengths are Kindness, Fairness and Honesty. If you would like to take the survey yourself and discuss strengths as a family, visit www.viacharacter.org.

THE VIA CLASSIFICATION OF CHARACTER STRENGTHS
VIA INSTITUTE ON CHARACTER

The VIA Classification of Strengths is the "backbone" of the science of positive psychology.

- WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE:**
 - CREATIVITY:** Originality; adaptive; ingenuity
 - CURIOSITY:** Interest; novelty-seeking; exploration; openness to experience
 - JUDGMENT:** Critical thinking; thinking things through; open-minded
 - LOVE OF LEARNING:** Mastering new skills & topics; systematically adding to knowledge
 - PERSPECTIVE:** Wisdom; providing wise counsel; taking the big picture view
- COURAGE:**
 - BRAVERY:** Valor; not shrinking from fear; speaking up for what's right
 - PERSEVERANCE:** Persistence; industry; finishing what one starts
 - HONESTY:** Authenticity; integrity
 - ZEST:** Vitality; enthusiasm; vigor; energy; feeling alive and activated
- HUMANITY:**
 - LOVE:** Both loving and being loved; valuing close relations with others
 - KINDNESS:** Generosity; nurturance; care; compassion; altruism; compassion; altruism; "niceness"
 - SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE:** Emotional intelligence; aware of the motives/feelings of self/others, knowing what makes other people tick
- JUSTICE:**
 - TEAMWORK:** Citizenship; social responsibility; loyalty
 - FAIRNESS:** Just; not letting feelings bias decisions about others
 - LEADERSHIP:** Organizing group activities; encouraging a group to get things done
- TEMPERANCE:**
 - FORGIVENESS:** Mercy; accepting others' shortcomings; giving people a second chance
 - HUMILITY:** Modesty; letting one's accomplishments speak for themselves
 - PRUDENCE:** Careful; cautious; not taking undue risks
 - SELF-REGULATION:** Self-control; disciplined; managing impulses & emotions
- TRANSCENDENCE:**
 - APPRECIATION OF BEAUTY & EXCELLENCE:** Awe; wonder; elevation
 - GRATITUDE:** Thankful for the good; expressing thanks; feeling blessed
 - HOPE:** Optimism; future-mindedness; future orientation
 - HUMOR:** Playfulness; bringing smiles to others; lighthearted
 - SPIRITUALITY:** Religiousness; faith; purpose; meaning

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SOUTHERN CROSS
GRAMMAR

THE SOUTHERN STAR

Thursday 16 August 2018 - Edition 271

Principal: Mr Andrew Ponsford

Ms Romina Pimpini Head of Junior School (F - 4)

Only a few more sleeps to go,
We're counting all our sheep.

Preparing at school, at home & work,
It's SCG's BOOK WEEK!

Mrs Lira has laid her best plans,
We each have tasks to do.

There's an array of fun book activities,
To enjoy the whole week through.

So whether you're in Foundation,
Or older in Year 4.

I'd like to encourage all of you,
To try and read a little more.

For a good book can take you,
To places you might have never seen.

As your imagination grows & develops,
Your creativity more than just a dream.

As we approach Book Week in the Junior School,
A week filled with books and fun.
I hope you can each sit with a good book,
To share with your family—EVERY ONE!

For a few trips on how to get reading at your
place, be sure to visit:
www.todayparent.com/family/activities/kids-reading-books/.

2KS are on a journey to Neverland!



2LH are preparing their best Harry Potter theme.



Foundation classes have an animal theme –
pigeons and something about a sheep that is
green?





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While 3CG have sculpted a Minecraft scene.



There's lots of suspense in 1SK—I wonder what their favourite story is today?



Even the Art Room is dressed with its socks in tow—well done, Ms Kylie & Ms Drossinos—way to go!



Rajnish Ram
Learning Area Leader
Science, STEM and Computing

Successful completion of University of Melbourne engineering project

Grace Mureretto (Year 10), Obydah Abu-Hassan (Year 10) and Tarun Chidambarabharathi (Year 10) represented SCG in the University of Melbourne's 'Amazing Spaghetti Machine Competition' on 9 July.

This engineering project required students to design and build a Rube Goldberg.

They exhibited great resilience while designing and building their highly efficient project.

Southern Cross Grammar at the RoboCup Junior Victoria State Competition



Trisha Ram (Year 6), Mia Cook (Year 5), Luca Spiteri (Year 5), Grace Mureretto (Year 10), Yash Padmawar (Year 5) and Dhruv Menon (Year 7) (pictured above) competed in the Onstage component of the RoboCup Junior Victoria State Competition on 15 August at the University of Melbourne.



The students showed great resilience and very good competency in operating their robots.

Cynthia Drossinis
Learning Area Leader
Creative Arts

ACCA excursion



On Wednesday 8 August, Year 11 Art student Damien (pictured above) visited the Flinders Lane Gallery, Buxton Contemporary and ACCA as part of his 'Contemporary and Cultural' unit of work.

This was an opportunity for him to view contemporary collections featuring a wide range of works from Australian and Indigenous artists, including paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs, textiles, furniture, ceramics, metalwork and jewellery.

We attended 'A Lightness of Spirit is the Measure of Happiness', an commissioned exhibition featuring 10 new artist from south-east Australia and beyond at the Australian Centre of Contemporary Art.

The exhibition celebrates the significance of family, community and humour in contemporary Aboriginal life.

This excursion offered Damien a wide variety of visual experiences and the opportunity to engage directly with his Art studies outside of the school setting.

Kylie Lidgerwood
Junior School and Middle School Art
Teacher

21 August Art Excursion ACCA

7.1 and 7.3 students will take part in a guided tour of ACCA and attend 'Think, Talk, Respond' and attend the 'A Lightness of Spirit is the Measure of Happiness' exhibition.

This lively introduction will engage students' interest and imagination through activities and discussions of key words in the exhibition.

Please ensure that students are wearing correct school uniform and bring a packed lunch in a disposable bag on the day. Buses will leave at 9 am sharp and will return to the School for a 3.05 pm dismissal.



Michael Pell Head of Sport (7 - 12)

Year 5/6 Hockey – Western Metropolitan Region

On Monday 13 August, eight Year 5 and Year 6 students competed in the SSV Western Metropolitan Region Hockey championships.

This event followed their win in the Caroline Springs Primary Schools Sports Association some weeks back.

The students gave a great account of themselves in difficult conditions, despite being quite undermanned. They unfortunately lost all three of their games.

Congratulations to Jaskanwar Sekhon (Year 6), Joseph Iulianella (Year 6), Leo Xu (Year 6), Marie Sarkatzis (Year 6) (back row), and Lucas Theuma (Year 5), Zara Joachimiak (Year 5), Zali Heenan (Year 5) and Mackenzie Morgan-Leheny (Year 5) (front row).





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Stella Wang Learning Area Leader - Languages

Chinese students' visit from Beijing and Suzhou

Twenty students and two teachers from Suzhou Xingwan Primary School in Zhejiang Province and Beijing Bacui Bilingual School in Beijing visited our school on Friday 29 July.

In order to experience Australian school life, these Chinese students and teachers joined Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6 classes.

The visitors have since given feedback that they were very impressed with our School, staff and student programs.

I think this was a great example of SCG's cultural, learning environment and professionalism on display to our external visitors.

Parents and Friends' Association

PFA Social Night - It's time for Quiz King!

Join the PFA for a parents and friends night of fun, trivia and laughter!

Returning from the success of last year's 'Dolly's Disco Bingo', our Quiz Night is sure to be a fun night out.

Follow this link to book your tickets:
www.trybooking.com/XMXC.

Create a team and bring a group of friends together, or leave the team name blank and we will place you in team with fellow members of the school community.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles, fill your pockets with cash and gold coins, and be ready to fundraise! Lots of fun games on the night.

'Quiz King' will be held on Saturday 8 September 2018 at 7:00pm, at the Junior School Learning Hub in the School.

PFA F - 4 Disco Final Days

The Disco will be Friday 24 August at the Junior School Hub, 5:30 – 7:30pm.

There will be DJs & dancing, food & games, and prizes & fun! Help us celebrate Daffodil Day by wearing your coolest yellow outfit.

\$15 a ticket – all inclusive. \$1 per ticket booking will be donated to the Cancer Council.

Book here early so you don't miss out!
www.trybooking.com/XDUN.



daffodil day
Cancer Council



BOOK WEEK 2018 COMING UP IN WEEK 6...



BOOKMARK MAKING WORKSHOP

YEARS F-4 & Year 5-9

Come along to a bookmaking workshop in the Learning Hub with our JS & MS Captains. All materials supplied.

When: Tuesday 21 August

F – Year 4 : JS Recess

Year 5 – 9 : MS Lunch

Where: Junior School Learning Hub.

TUESDAY

THE GREAT BOOK SWAP

FOUNDATION – Year 6

Donate a preloved, good condition book to the 'The Great Book Swap'. Bring along a gold coin to participate.

All funds raised will go towards remote indigenous communities.

When: Wednesday 22 August

Where: Junior School Learning Hub.

WEDNESDAY

DRESS -UP PARADE

FOUNDATION – Year 4

Come dressed up as your favourite book character or use the theme 'find your treasure' as your inspiration for your costume.

When: Thursday 23 August

JS (Foundation -4) – 8:45am

Where: Junior School Learning Hub.

THURSDAY

DRESS -UP ACTIVITIES

Year 5 & Year 6

Come dressed up as your favourite book character or use the theme 'find your treasure' as your inspiration for your costume.

When: Thursday 23 August

MS (Year 5-6) – 10:05am (P2)

Where: Junior School Learning Hub.

THURSDAY

AUTHOR TALK: ALICE PUNG

Engaging author Alice Pung will visit SCG to speak to the Year 7 – Year 9's.

When: Friday 24 August, 9am

Where: Learning Hub

Year 7-9
FRIDAY



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2018/19 JUNIOR THOROUGHBREDS MUVJBL TRYOUTS SUNDAY 7TH OCTOBER

Melton Indoor Recreation Centre – 159 Coburns Rd, Melton

GIRLS

UNDER 18'S 9.00AM – 10.30AM
UNDER 16'S 10.30AM – 12.00PM
UNDER 14'S 12.00PM – 1.30PM
UNDER 12'S 1.30PM – 3.00PM

BOYS

UNDER 18'S 9.00AM – 10.30AM
UNDER 16'S 10.30AM – 12.00PM
UNDER 14'S 12.00PM – 1.30PM
UNDER 12'S 1.30PM – 3.00PM

The Victorian Junior Championship League serves as a benchmark for excellence in competition and is the premier competition for junior teams nominated by affiliated associations.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2019
JUNIOR THOROUGHBREDS
MUVJBL TRYOUTS NOW OPEN
HEAD TO WWW.MELTONBASKETBALL.COM.AU