



Mr Andrew Ponsford
Principal

As the year draws ever closer and quicker to its conclusion, I wish students, staff and families best wishes for our key events that recognise achievement and success and celebrate milestones:

- Senior School (10 - 12) Presentation Evening—Thursday 22 November
- Middle School (5 - 9) Exhibition of Learning—Wednesday 28 November
- Junior School (F - 4) Celebration of Learning—Tuesday 4 December

We have already enjoyed two wonderful occasions – the Year 12 Valedictory Dinner and the Year 4 Graduation. Both occasions were memorable and impressive for all the right reasons and it was both a pleasure and privilege to be present. My special thanks to many staff and some students who lead and co-coordinated these events. I also extend best wishes to our Year 6 students for their special night on Friday 30 November. Your dance moves on the oval this week were very impressive!

Congratulations

You may have read my comments last week that quoted John Hattie’s research on the ‘qualities and characteristics’ that have the highest impact on learning—the second highest of these is ‘leadership’. There are many staff who either formally through their roles or just as significantly through their daily actions, qualities and behaviours empower others and demonstrate powerful ‘grass roots’ leadership. It is with pleasure that I congratulate the following staff who, following a competitive internal process, have been appointed to the following positions from 2019:

Assistant Head of Senior School (10 - 12)	Mr Joseph Hedditch
Assistant Head of Middle School (5 - 9)	Mr David Wildsmith
Assistant Head of Junior School (F - 4)	Mrs Lauren Hedditch
VCE Co-ordinator (10 - 12)	Ms Megan Unthank

2019 Information

Please note: Next week’s issue of The Southern Star is one of our most-read—and will summarise 2019 staffing arrangements in preparation for the various orientation and step-up programs that feature during this time.

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

Exams

Our students have now finished all of their Year 12 exams with the last one completed late yesterday. I don’t think they can believe it is finally all over!

They now have some time for relaxation before the results are released in mid-December and they start making plans for the next stage of their lives. Let’s hope they have lots to smile about after all the hard work.

The Year 7 - 9 exams commenced yesterday and continue until tomorrow afternoon. These students are to be congratulated on their approach to these exams. They have been calm, organized and well-prepared. Well done, Middle School students!

2019 Electives and Subjects

The 2019 Year 8 - 10 students have recently received confirmation of their subjects and electives for next year and Year 11 students and Year 12 students received their VCE Study (Subject) confirmations late in Term 3.

As staffing and classes have been arranged based on students’ initial preferences, requests for changes may not be possible to accommodate. This is why students were asked to consider their options carefully at the time of submitting them.

Ms Louisa Rennie
Head of Senior School (10 – 12)

Year 10 – 12 Presentation Evening

We look forward to welcoming all Senior School students and parents to our Senior School Presentation Evening tonight, from 5:45 pm at the Meeting Place (function room), Moonee Valley Racecourse. All students are expected to attend in formal summer uniform, including blazers. To ensure consistency of appearance and comfort during the evening, it is requested that jumpers are left at home. Male students are required to wear their short-sleeved shirt, tie and shorts with their shirts tucked in and their top button done up.



Work Experience

Our Year 10 and Year 11 students have been busy this week at their Work Experience placements and I am delighted to note the positive comments I have received from various Work Experience Supervisors. Final visits from staff will be occurring tomorrow (Friday).

I take this opportunity to congratulate our students on their professional conduct and proud representation of our school.

I look forward to participating in discussion about your experiences and what you have learned about yourselves and about the workplace.

2019 Year 10 – 12 Program

Next week, our Senior School students return to school to commence the 2019 Learning program.

The seven-day program is an important time for all students in the Senior School to experience what lays ahead in their next year of schooling.

All students are expected to be in attendance. The program commences on Monday 26 November at 8:30 am in the Junior School Hub.

It will also allow us to welcome new students to the SCG Senior School and all students will receive important information about preparatory work they can be doing during the December – January break. The program concludes on Tuesday 4 December at 3:05 pm.

Senior School Ambassador Program

Parents and carers in the Senior School have previously received information about this new opportunity that we seek to explore, commencing in 2019.

As a school, we are very excited to announce that we have chosen to partner with Camps International to offer students the opportunity to go on a life-changing three-week expedition to Peru during the summer of 2019.

This expedition will allow students to live alongside rural communities and work on projects which could include helping to build classrooms, combat deforestation or protect wildlife. Students

will also undertake a 4 - 5 day trek on the Salkantay Trail to Machu Picchu.

Since Camps International started running expeditions in 2002, over 22,000 students have travelled with them around the world. These students have collectively completed over 80,000 weeks of volunteering, working on inspirational projects which have positively impacted on the lives of over 103,000 people.

We recognise the benefits to the communities our students will support, as well as the benefits for their own personal development—creating unforgettable memories and undertaking an incredible experience which they can include in university and job applications.

Students gain and demonstrate a wide range of skills through their fundraising activities in the lead up to and on their expedition and Camps International will support students through the fundraising process.

Going on expedition is an amazing opportunity for your son or daughter to step outside their comfort zone and into another culture and country, putting their learning into practice.

Whilst away, students grow in self-confidence, improve their communication and team building skills and experience first-hand how much impact just one person, working as part of a team, can have on the world.

The purpose of the Ambassador Program is to:

- Underpin our local academic and pastoral focus with opportunity to look beyond our school and broaden the life experiences of our students, in turn, cultivating a broader sense of local and global citizenship
- Develop in our students, resilience, understanding and interpersonal skills to benefit their personal development and future careers.
- Engender in our students, enterprise and problem-solving skills, the ability to deal with failure, curiosity and intrinsic motivation to learn and understand new things as a lifelong virtue.
- Increase intercultural competence and understanding across our student population, of global conditions, opportunities and challenges.



Senior School Ambassador Program Information Evening

This event will be held on Tuesday 27 November 2018, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm, at the SCG VCE Centre. Parents, please RSVP to Joseph Hedditch jhedditch@scg.vic.edu.au by Monday 26 November.

For insight into previous expeditions to Peru, please visit: www.twitter.com/campperu

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

Middle School Exhibition of Learning

We look forward to welcoming the Southern Cross Grammar Middle School community next week at the Middle School Exhibition of Learning commencing from 6:00pm on Wednesday 28 November.

The evening will be a celebration of the learning which occurred in the 2018 Academic Year and to acknowledge the efforts of the Middle School Students who will also receive a range of awards on the evening. These awards include the following:

- Learning Area Awards for Years 7 – 9
- Shooting Star Awards for Years 5 – 9
- Sports Awards for Years 3 – 6 and Years 7 - 12
- Academic Excellence Awards for Years 5 – 9
- The Caltex All Rounder Award – Year 9 Student
- The Star of the Southern Cross Award – Awarded to one Middle School Student

I look forward to celebrating the year with our SCG Community next week.

Schoolbox – Pilot Parent Group

SCG is introducing a new Intranet and Learning Management System across the F – 12 School. Currently, all Staff and Students have access to Schoolbox to view important information and daily communication at the School.

We are now ready to put together a Pilot Parent Group to give feedback and support the implementation of Schoolbox for the Parent Community. If you are interested in participating in this Pilot group, please send an expression of interest to Sophie Comber, Communications Coordinator at scomber@scg.vic.edu.au

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

Even forecasted bad weather didn't stop us in the Junior School this week. We had to Be Creative and Problem-Solvers on Tuesday when our F - 2 Swimming Carnival was rescheduled. Looking at the radar, there were storms forecast, so because it was too risky, we held our F - 2 House Sports Event instead.

Students from Year 6 and Senior School (Work Experience) volunteered their time alongside Junior School Sports Captains to lead students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 through various activities such as Lily Pad, Water Course and Hoop Time.





Adam and Orlando of Year 1 practised their skipping at the F - 2 House Event (previous page). Eva (F) helped her team in Water Course (previous page).

Rose, Nicholas, Eden and Naisha 'flossed' their way to the icy poles. Go Gamma Greats! (opposite)

Year 4 Graduation

Off to the Middle School they go! Wednesday afternoon saw us celebrate our Year 4 students and their achievements of 2018 in a Graduation assembly afternoon tea gathering for students, family members and staff.

Our Junior School Captains led the event and proudly shared in some reflections of the year, including highlights of camp, excursions and saving the egg experiments.

We had so much fun and enjoyed the icy poles served to us from the PFA parents. A big thanks to Ms Panozzo, Mr Hedditch and the entire PE Team for their planning and support in making this day just so much fun!

Each student was presented with a certificate and a pen; a memento they can keep for many years to come. We wish our Year 4 students every success next year.

Congratulations to all involved. Your efforts in participation, teamwork and fun were outstanding on the day and it was clear to see the strength we have as an F - 12 school.

Know as you graduate to the Middle School,
This message is from our Junior School heart.

While you may be in Year 5 and we know you will thrive,
We are only one building apart!





STEM in the Junior School — Linking Learning and Life!



By Sophie (Year 4)

At the start of the Term 4, twelve Year 4 students were invited to an extension task called STEM.

Our first project was to make a bridge using only 100 icy-pole sticks, paper and glue.

It was hard because we had to use our time wisely to make sure the glue dried in time for testing day.

We were allowed to use our iPad to gather ideas on how to make our bridge. Testing day finally came around after three weeks of hard work.

We started by using weights to test the strength of the bridges we constructed, but we ended up using ourselves!

Most of the bridges could hold 25 kg before snapping, but one ended up holding a total of 45 kg. Overall, the STEM group had a lot of fun working together on this project and can't wait for our next task.

Mr Rajnesh Ram
Learning Area Leader - STEM and Science (F - 12)

SCG Robotics Competition success

Congratulations to Trisha Ram, Mia Cook and Sierra Ralph for winning the SCG In House Robotics competition (below, left to right).

The team built and coded two robots to perform a musical item.

More in-house robotics competitions will be organised in future to prepare students for external competitions.

