



Mr Andrew Ponsford
Principal

Beginnings and the momentum generated through a positive start are so important to later success – first impressions, the return to good habits, building connections and partnerships, understanding the changes and adapting.

There have been several indicators that this new journey has commenced in positive ways:

- a wonderful Foundation Orientation
- a very meaningful Middle School ‘informal’ orientation prior to Day 1
- valuable pre-commencement activities and meetings for new and returning staff
- the Year 12 Study Retreat
- ‘Meet the Teacher’ interviews with F – 9 Homeroom teachers
- some excellent start-up work completed by our non-teaching / admin and support staff, many of whom returned on 10 January

All of these activities were obvious to me as they occurred within my view. However, what can also be ‘felt’ are the home activities by many students and their families that have also added benefit to our positive start and the momentum generated.

All of the above was capped off yesterday with an excellent Swimming Carnival for our Year 7-12 students. The sense of enjoyment, team and positivity within an inclusive program was a credit to both the planning team and the participants.

Well done to many on the completion of a satisfying first week for 2019!

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

It has been an exceptionally busy start to the year for staff and students but hopefully the students have now settled back into a routine and are feeling comfortable with their teachers and their new learning environments. It has been lovely to meet the many new students and to watch how well they are adjusting to their school community. The Foundation students look amazing. We forget how small they are at that age!

With the start of another year of learning, communication between

school and families is important. It was wonderful to see so many parents attending the Junnior and Middle School interviews last night. I hope this opportunity to meet the class/Homeroom teachers proved to be beneficial.

I would like to remind families of the importance of attending the Senior School Information Night to be held in the downstairs rooms of the VCE Centre next Monday evening ie Monday 11February, from 6.00pm. The 2019 Senior School Policy Handbook will be distributed and many very important VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority) and Southern Cross Grammar rules and policies associated with the VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) explained.

I cannot stress enough the importance of Senior School parents and students having an understanding of the contents of the Policy Handbook. As per VCAA rules, all students undertaking a VCE subject will be asked to sign an agreement next week confirming they have read, understand and agree to abide by these rules. Time will be set aside at school beforehand to answer any questions students may have.

I look forward to meeting our Senior School families again on Monday night; an opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification and explain what our academic program looks like in the Senior School.

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

We have had a strong beginning in the Senior School this year. We are delighted to welcome back students and welcome new students into the Senior School. Thank you to all the Senior School staff who commenced the year with focus and enthusiasm and created opportunities for our students to get focused quickly, particularly while some of us were away, on the Year 12 Leadership Retreat.

The Retreat was a really special couple of days, a chance for our Year 12 students to connect with each other and for the Year 12 Homeroom teachers, Ms Trish Vu and Ms Lydia Brkic, and I, to build solid relationships with our students. The Retreat is designed with the intent to support students to build self-confidence and belief in their capacity to achieve personal success, build team culture and commitment to each other, to achieve group success as well as reflect on and commit to hopes and aspirations for the year ahead.



Our Year 12's excelled themselves. They came together so positively and committed to actions that will support the unity, growth and success of the Year 12 team. They spent time in reflection, preparing themselves to embrace the challenges ahead and experience success and they set some goals to focus on through the year. It was a pleasure to be in their midst and we are very proud of them.



Senior School Homerooms

Our 2019 Homeroom teachers are actively supporting our students during the morning Homeroom period to settle, focus on the day ahead and develop a readiness to learn. Should you have any concerns or information to share, parents are encouraged to make contact with the Homeroom teacher in the first instance. Should the question or concern be in relation to a teaching matter, please approach the subject teacher. Our teachers are keen to develop and maintain positive relationships with students, and this occurs best through transparent communication channels. We do our best to respond to you in a timely fashion. During the day, our time is often consumed with focusing on our students so we appreciate your patience. If we have not responded to you within 48 hours, please do offer us a gentle reminder.

- Year 10.1-** Ms Evelyn Smith and Mrs Lee Oldham-Jones
- Year 10.2-** Mrs Sophie Macreadie and Ms Riaz Mohamed
- Year 10.3-** Mrs Deepti Rojiwadiya and Mrs Angie Atal- Carreon
- Year 11.1-** Mrs Lauren Smith and Ms Jessica Owen
- Year 11.2-** Miss Ally Richards and Mr Amer Ibrahim Basha
- Year 12.1-** Ms Lydia Brkic and Ms Trish Vu

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

Tomorrow, Mr Wildsmith and I will be excited to announce the Middle School Portfolio Captains for Social Justice, New Generation Learning, Sport and Art, as well as the Class Captains for Semester 1 for Years 5 – 9. These positions are important roles within the student body as they create the remainder of the Middle School Student Representative Council. For Portfolio Captains alone, we received nearly 50 applications. This is an incredible show of enthusiasm and willingness to advocate for the values and passions of the Southern Cross Grammar Community.

Those students elected to leadership roles within the Middle School will be the voice of the student body. They will speak on behalf of their peers and promote the portfolios they represent. For this reason, I was so proud to see students' applications reflect the core qualities of what it means to be a leader: to be ethical, to listen, to show enthusiasm, to be equitable, encouraging, innovative and communicative.

However, students who are not elected to official positions of leadership, still have an opportunity to lead from the inside. You do not need a title to be a leader. You do not need a pin on your lapel to show that you have made a difference in some way. Leading from the inside means that you can still make an impact and promote your ideas and initiatives by presenting them to your Class Captain, Portfolio Captain or Middle School Leader.

It is with great thanks on behalf of Mr Wildsmith and myself to all Middle School students who applied. Students, we are filled with gratitude for your efforts and passion to make a difference.





Middle School Reminders

- All students have been issued with a Middle School Student Diary. Students are reminded to look after their diary. If lost, students can replace it for a \$10 fee. So, please ensure you write your name and class in the front so it can be returned to you if misplaced!
- Year 7 campers are off to Anglesea Valley Lodge next week. We wish them a wonderful time filled with challenge, adventure and spending time connecting with nature and with each other!
- Don't forget your hats! Remember that hats are required in Term 1 for Recess, Lunch and PE lessons. Please come prepared to be Sun Smart!

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

Our Junior School 'Meet the Teacher Program' was a huge success this week. It was wonderful to meet so many parents and carers, as together, we work to support the learning and growth of your child/ren. Hopefully we will also get to meet other interested families at our Junior School Information Evening on Monday 18 February, commencing at 6.00pm in the Junior School Hub.

This is an opportunity for parents/carers to gain some understanding of:

- teaching & learning strategies used in the Junior School
- communications with teachers
- special events and activities planned for 2019

We hope you can join us for this interactive session with Classroom and Specialist teachers.

*Please Note: Students are not required on this occasion



Students in Years 1-4 are looking forward to slipping on their swimwear, slapping on sunscreen and slapping on a hat next Tuesday at our Swimming Carnival to be held at Melton Waves Leisure Centre.

Information about this event has already been sent home, students should have returned their Nomination Form for events to the Homeroom Teacher.

We look forward to everyone being involved in swimming or novelty events on the day – what great Summer fun we will have!

If you have any questions, please contact us at School prior to next Tuesday, so that all students are well-prepared for this event.

Tomorrow we will host our first Junior School Assembly for the year, commencing at 8.45am in the Junior School Hub. We will present our Portfolio Captains, as well as Class Captains for Term 1.

Next Friday 15 February our 2019 Foundation Class will have their very first Assembly where we will welcome them in to the House Program at Southern Cross Grammar. As always, parents are invited to attend and share in the celebrations of our Assemblies as we build upon the strong House and community spirit we are so proud of in the Junior School.

As always, if you have any questions in regards to items in this newsletter, please contact your child's Homeroom teacher as a first-point of contact.

Here's to a super week ahead for all!



SOUTHERN CROSS
GRAMMAR

THE SOUTHERN STAR

Thursday 7 February 2019 - Edition 287

Principal: Mr Andrew Ponsford

Dolly's

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