



SOUTHERN CROSS
GRAMMAR

THE SOUTHERN STAR

Friday 20 March 2020 - Edition 332

Principal: Mr Andrew Ponsford



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Mr Andrew Ponsford

PRINCIPAL

Our students are at the heart of everything we do at Southern Cross Grammar and as an organisation we are fully committed to their learning, wellbeing and safety. While we have not had a forced closure due to COVID-19, we understand a number of families have made the decision at this difficult time to keep their students at home.

We are committed to being a resource to all our families at this time and given the escalation in the concerns around the virus and absenteeism, we have made the decision to bring forward our plans for online learning options for our community in order to cater for both our students at home and onsite.

As is typical of Southern Cross Grammar staff, the team have been working overtime to prepare for what seems like an inevitable isolation sometime this year for our school. This has been a time consuming exercise and in order to be fully prepared for Term 2, staff require planning days to be brought forward in order to prepare and further develop resources that cater to online learning.

In order to ensure we are well placed to continue supporting all of our students academically and pastorally during this time, it has become necessary for us to enact two staff days on Tuesday 24 March and Wednesday 25 March.

Both days will be used by staff to further develop resources that cater to online learning and to create a robust curriculum for Term 2 in the event of staff absence due to the virus and future directives from the Government requiring the School to close for an extended period of time. On Thursday 26 March, we will be testing the system remotely for all families.



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Given the complexity of providing online support, the number of devices and platform options, we anticipate there will be some issues we will need to work through together. We encourage families to reach out to the School's IT help desk for assistance.

Consequently, we ask that families keep students home from Tuesday 24 March to Thursday 26 March (inclusive) so we can trial our online platforms and lessons, and to allow the time required to produce quality resources for our children. Classes will be running as usual on Monday 23 March and Friday 27 March. Friday classes will be available for students who choose to attend.

Supporting our students goes beyond purely academic content; it also extends to student support. We encourage you to continue engaging with our Student Services and other key wellbeing personnel during this time as they will be available will proactively support families.

Please note that to prepare for next week's learning activities, students will be allocated time on Monday afternoon to prepare and collect learning resources prior to their departure at 3:05pm. Site access is only available via the Junior School Reception on Lancefield Drive.

Thank you for supporting us as we all work together to minimise COVID-19's impact on our student population.



MR MATTHEW DODD'S COMMENCEMENT AT SOUTHERN CROSS GRAMMAR

As part of the School's Business Continuity Plan, the School Board recently took the decision to bring forward Principal- Elect Matthew Dodd's commencement at Southern Cross Grammar as a 'special consultant' to further support and assist the School in these unprecedented times.

While I will continue in the capacity of Principal during Term 2, it is very reassuring to have this additional resource.

Mr Dodd has significant leadership experience and his focus on the Stage 3B Building Project, Critical Incident Management, Schoolbox (our e-learning platform for Years 5–12) and video-conferencing technology will help us to continue progressing in these areas as strongly as possible and strengthen our School.

In what is an increasingly complex and rapidly changing environment we are delighted by Mr Dodd's decision to make himself available on a part-time consultant basis. I also see this as an opportunity for Mr Dodd to gain an understanding of the School and it's community, and be involved in the School's strategic planning as he transitions into his role as Principal at the start of Term 3.

There is no doubt that much has been added to our daily lives and Mr Dodd's decision to rearrange his personal circumstances will ensure that nothing is overlooked in these very challenging times.



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Teaching and Learning News PFA News

Mrs Julie Baud

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

HEAD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING (F-12)

Each year we analyse our performance data, including NAPLAN and PAT data and our Year 12 results. Twelve months ago, this process highlighted that data interpretation (graphs and tables) was a challenge for our students in their Year 12 exams. They hadn't answered this type of question very well in a number of subjects. It has been pleasing to note that in 2019 there was significant improvement in this area in subjects such as Biology, Business Management and Chemistry after implementing some strategies to help students with data analysis.

Recent discussions around the 2019 Year 12 results have focused on the inaccurate responses to a number of problem solving questions that really challenged students' thinking. To someone like myself in a Teaching and Learning role, this highlights the need for us to review our programs and to consider providing more opportunities for our students to develop these skills and attributes.

It is important we challenge our students to think, to problem solve, to be able to work in a team effectively and to question and explore. These are all integral aspects of our Student Centred Vision and they are skills and attributes that will encourage them to take risks in their learning and move out of their comfort zone. They are also skills and attributes our students will need to be successful in their future careers.

Particularly in the current climate, not only do the educational programs we deliver need to be rigorous, challenging and relevant for our diverse student population, they also need to be flexible and agile. This includes the mode of delivery as well as the content.

The possibility of remote teaching and learning is on its way to becoming a reality next week as we prepare to test our online remote learning systems. It is a wonderful opportunity to review teaching and learning and for our staff and students to take risks and explore the unknown. While there is currently a lot of anxiety in the community, and for very good reasons, we are fully committed to students' learning and producing quality resources for them.



OLD LOGO UNIFORM DONATIONS

Thank you to our SCG community for your old logo uniform and school bag donations. All items in good condition were delivered to the Rotary Club's Donations in Kind (DIK) program: an initiative that delivers goods to overseas communities in need. Volunteers were thrilled to receive our donations, which filled two and a half large trolleys!

Still have some old logo items lurking in the back of the wardrobe? It's not too late to donate your unwanted SCG uniform items in the drop off bins located in Junior school reception.



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Junior School News

Ms Romina Pimpini

HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL (F-4)



Gourlay Road and the School surrounds were a sea of colour last Friday, as we really got in to the swing of a House event.

The Ride2School Day 2020 initiative was adopted broadly by many families, whereby Foundation–Year 12 students rode bikes, scooted or walked their way to School.

This was an opportunity for fun, fitness and friends. We had toots of support from passing cars, cheers from neighbouring schools, mums and dads jogging along and even baby brothers and sisters joining in the fun to keep up with the pedal power.

We had 365 students check-in at the House gates and earn points on the day. What a superb school effort; that's 50% of our student population!

Of course, this event could not be possible without student leaders who set-up around the school, staff who helped out on the day, as well as work done the lead-up. Importantly, we recognise that so many mums, dads and family members took some time out to connect with their child(ren) and other members of the SCG community to really bring this event to life.

In the current climate, moments like these reminds us of the importance of how working together can create a shared success ... all the while having fun!

Congratulations to everyone who took part and earned House points for this event. The tally for the day was:

Gamma	296 points
Alpha	250 points
Beta	334 points
Delta	299 points

Congratulations Beta Believers! These points will be added to the House tally for 2020 as each House strives to win the Epsilon Cup.



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Middle School News

Mr David Wildsmith

HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL (5-9)

With uncertainty in all walks of society at present, it would be easy for us as a community to fall apart and disengage. There have certainly been well-publicised examples of these behaviours in wider society, as we witness scenes at shops, malls and in public that many may not have thought possible.

What has been extremely pleasing, humbling and wonderful to witness however, has been the response of our Middle School Community. Students, staff and wider families have rallied together to be respectful of each other's space as we continue to maximise our opportunities to learn and engage together. Middle School students continue to be calm but educated in the face of COVID-19 proving themselves once again to be responsible global citizens. Our Middle Schoolers have cared for each other throughout this time by being responsible and conscious of our actions and our words and the way these can impact others; by asking questions when we are unsure or unclear; and by continuing to be creative problem solvers through these times.

Whilst the future does remain unknown, I am confident that whatever does occur will be tackled by us as a school community. I am sure as a Middle School we will 'have each other's back' as we face such uncertainty.

THIS WEEK

One program that we have commenced in 2020 as part of our Enrichment Program and have been able to continue recently is Year 5/6 Homework Club. Whilst the word 'homework' does not always evoke feelings of excitement, each Tuesday we have had a dedicated group of Year 5 students and Year 6 students get together with one of the teaching team to revise, review and question their current topics and areas currently getting covered. Students have found this to be beneficial, having this to say about their new club:

"I think Homework Club is great because you are in your school environment with the Year 5s and 6s and you have your teacher help and support for any questions." Arabella Borg, Year 5 students

"Homework Club is really awesome because if you don't have that much time at home to do homework, you get the opportunity to do it at school with your teachers' help." Naomi Matta, Year 5



Name: Thomas Sarandoglou

Class: 5.1

House: Gamma

Family Background/Ethnicity: Greek and Italian

Favourite Colour: Red

Favourite Sport: Tennis

Hobbies: Tennis, playing video games and drawing

Dream Job: Tennis player

Favourite Food: Margarita Pizza

Favourite Music: Rock

Favourite Movie: Jurassic Park

Favourite Subject: Mathematics

Favourite Animal: Koala

What would your superpower be? Invisibility

If you could buy anything in the world, what would it be?: The company eBay

In your words, what is the meaning of life?: Friendship and family

GET TO KNOW... MIDDLE SCHOOL!



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Senior School News

Mr Joseph Hedditch

ACTING HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL (10-12)



WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

My name is Le Tran and I participated in the World's Greatest Shave for the Leukaemia Foundation on 13 March. The experience really showed me how little effort it takes to raise money for a good cause. From the surface of things I merely shaved my head, however, it is clear this goal was achieved by all of us.

We were able to raise more than triple my goal, at an astounding \$1700! This amount can help fund vital research to help more people survive blood cancer, while improving their quality of life. I could not be more appreciative of each donation. If you still wish to donate, you can do so through me or alternatively through [my donation page](#) until 30 June.

Thank you so much for such an amazing experience and for your support in helping me make a difference.

YEAR 12 BOYS VOLLEYBALL

On Friday, a team of 12 students travelled to Maribyrnong Sports College to compete in the Division Volleyball Interschool Sport competition. The team played three games in total winning two of them, to come away with third overall out of seven teams. The first match against Footscray was a great contest with the first set decided after seven set points. In the end, SCG won. Our second match was a loss to Lakeview A. Our third match was another win against Lakeview B in what was a great day overall. Well done to the team on a great display.

