

# What, When & Why

## @ Mitcham Girls High School

No 1, Thursday, 29 January, Term 1, 2009

### From the Principal ...

#### Welcome

Welcome to the 2009 school year. In particular we welcome the year 8 students and their families as well as other students and families who are new to the school. I am looking forward to a very happy and rewarding association with you all.

Our students began their lessons immediately after recess on Tuesday. I acknowledge the work of Tony Sims whose timetabling skills and hard work ensure that we are in a position to begin teaching on the very first day of school. Meticulous planning by the administration team, year level managers, office staff, co-ordinators and teachers also ensure a very smooth start to the year.

In Terms 1 and 4 the pool is open and supervised at lunchtime for students who wish to swim. All students using the pool will need a pool pass. New students to the school must take their consent form to the PE Office so that they can be issued with a pass. Please be aware students are **not** dismissed early on hot days.

#### Reporting

There seems to be some confusion about the way schools report to parents/caregivers, especially since the introduction of the new Australian Government legislative requirements which, by law, schools need to incorporate into their reporting system.

For your information, I include a copy of the *New Students Reports in SA at a glance*, a brochure developed by the Department of Education and Children's Services.

According to the guidelines, parents will certainly receive reports at the end of semester one (the first half of the year) and at the end of semester two (the second half of the year). There will definitely be one parent teacher interview at the beginning of term two and possibly one at the beginning of term four.

We are developing our own policy on reporting and it will take a few weeks for it to be ratified by staff and, most importantly, by the Governing Council. Initial discussions among staff suggest that there is the need to communicate with parents/caregivers about the progress of their daughters more than twice a year, perhaps at the end of each term. We also encourage staff and parents to communicate with each other more regularly should performance issues arise. As soon as the draft policy is ratified by staff and Council, we will send you a copy for comment.

#### Staffing

We welcome the following members of staff to our community:

Ms H Duhoslav: SOSE, Business Studies

Ms M Hsu: SOSE, Legal Studies

Dr K Gatford: Science, Chemistry

Ms N Thornton: Dance

Ms L Tew: Science

We are also delighted that we have been able to reappoint the following teachers: Mr Bamborough, Ms Buob, Mr Finos, Ms Murrell, Ms Ludlow, Mr Peters and Dr Henschke. Caitlin Shooter has also returned to Mitcham to support the Sports Program.

For your benefit, a separate staff list is included so that you may refer to it. It will help you decide which member of staff you may need to contact from time to time.

#### Governing Council

The first meeting for Governing Council will take place on 9 February when the date for the AGM will be decided.

#### Let's save a few trees!

This newsletter will be sent to all families. However, the next newsletter will be emailed to the families who, last year, indicated they would like to receive it electronically. May I urge all other families to consider having the newsletter emailed to them if at all possible. Therefore, if you are able to receive the newsletter electronically and you have not given us your e-mail address, please complete the form at the back of this newsletter and return it to your daughter's Care Group teacher.

Mitcham Girls High School

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KINGSWOOD SA  
P 8272 8233  
F 8373 3013

[www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au](http://www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au)  
[info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au](mailto:info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au)

## Peer Support

This year the following Year 11 students have been selected to work with the Year 8 classes, to assist and support our new girls in transitioning into MGHS and in feeling secure, happy and able to 'grow' a strong sense of belonging:

Skye Battams  
Samantha Bowyer  
Courtney Bridges  
Melanie Dalton  
Hannah Evans  
Laura Evans  
Zeena Facchin  
Grace Goodger  
Jaz Gregory  
Matilda Harrison  
Rebecca Jacomos  
Natasha Jones  
Raissa Katembwe  
Samantha Muir  
Katie Neil  
Megan Peake  
Carina Petherbridge  
Hayley Radford  
Andreia Serem  
Stacey Wolstenholme

The Year 11 students will be present at our Year 8 Parent/Student evening in Week 1 this term. This will be the first opportunity for leaders and Year 8 girls to meet. Subsequently the leaders will be supporting the Year 8 Care Group Program during all care group lessons, as well as the three-day camp in Week 3. This program encourages leadership and a culture of trust and acceptance.

The leaders have already participated in a two-day intensive training program where each girl has demonstrated outstanding potential to take on the role of 'Big Sister'. Their leadership training is ongoing for Semester 1 this year. Once the structured, formal in-class support comes to a close, the leaders will have established strong relationships with many of the Year 8s and will continue to be available to support and mentor them in many different ways.

The program is a working example of the goals of our school, particularly, giving girls opportunities to develop confidence, resilience, well being, independence and civic responsibility.

Congratulations to our leaders of 2009.

**Ms Hirsch-Brown**  
Counsellor/Peer Leadership Trainer

## Year Eight Parent Evening

As the year starts there tend to be many questions asked by parents about processes and procedures followed by the school on various matters. The vast majority of those questions come from the parents of those new to the school, invariably year eight students. To help with this process, and so parents can meet the Care Group teachers of their daughters, we invite the parents of year eight students to a Parent Information Evening on the first Thursday of the term. This year the date is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

The evening will start with a 30 minute forum in the school gym at 5.30, followed by a meeting between the parents of year eight students and Care Group teachers in their daughter's Care Group room at 6.00pm. The only exception will be the parents of 807, the SHIP class, who are invited to join the SHIP Parent Information Meeting in the Performing Arts Centre at 6.00pm.

We hope the evening is informative for all those who attend.

**Marcus Kerr**  
Assistant Principal

## Year 12 results

### Congratulations to the 2008 Year 12 Students

Once again our students achieved great results:

- 95% of eligible students achieved The SACE
- 58 % of all results were As and Bs
- 77% of students received an offer from Universities or TAFE in the first round.

In particular we congratulate the following students who achieved a perfect score in one or more of their subjects:

**Emma Davis**  
**Zoe Laidlaw**  
**Lisa Hoppo**  
**Janelle Mackenzie**  
**Alana McGregor**  
**Vanessa Scoble**  
**Parul Sethi**  
**Tamyka Swan**  
**Elizabeth Telfer**

We look forward to seeing all the above students at the SACE Merit Ceremony, next month, at Government House.

**Penny Tranter**  
Deputy Principal

## Year Eight Home Learning Grid

Last time I spoke to parents regarding the HLG it was a proposal, albeit one that had considerable parent backing. A trial of the Home Learning Grid has now been adopted by staff and, over the next few days, information regarding 'The Grid' will be sent home for parent negotiation with their students. Please look over the material closely, as your active involvement in the HLG is essential for its success. A review of the HLG will take place in late term two to ascertain its effectiveness.

**Marcus Kerr**  
Assistant Principal, Middle School

## What's New To Do At Lunchtime?

**EFM** – get fit and have fun at our very own gym – all the latest equipment to make sure you stay healthy and in top condition.

Open on Mondays and Wednesdays each week in Term 1

### Swimming

The pool is open **every** lunchtime during Term 1 and Term 4. Students are required to have a pool pass, bathers and a towel. Pool passes are available at the PE office, or see your Physical Education teacher.

**Sandy Alston**  
H & PE/Sport Coordinator

## School Processes and Procedures

Mitcham Girls High School is a progressive learning community dedicated to providing outstanding education opportunities for girls.

For any organization to be successful we rely on all members of the team working together to support procedures. Our effectiveness depends on staff, parents/caregivers and students supporting current practice and we thank parents and caregivers for their support and look forward to on going support in these matters.

The major School Policies and Procedures are outlined in the Mitcham Girls High School Diary.

The following is a brief outline of these.

### Diaries:

Please look through your daughter's diary and sign it on a weekly basis.

You will be able to monitor your daughter's progress and homework obligations through this diary.

The school diary is the major method of communication between the student, the school and the home and the inclusion of non-school related material is not appropriate. The diary is a public document, which can be viewed by teachers upon request and as such should be kept in an appropriate state.

### Dress Code:

All students are expected to adhere to the school dress code. The School Governing Council, Principal and Staff affirm this decision and seek parent and student support for the Dress Code Policy.

Students and parents/caregivers are informed of these requirements on enrolment and expected to support it.

The Uniform shop at Mitcham Girls High School is open from 8:00am –11am, 12.30pm– 4.30pm each Thursday

Uniforms are also available for purchase from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday at:

**Uniform Management Services**  
109 Rundle Street  
Kent Town, 5067  
South Australia.  
Ph: 8363 5255

Students who do not adhere to the school dress code will have the option of borrowing an item of clothing from Student Services or going home to change. Students will not be sent home without parental consent.

Repeat incidents of non-compliance will be dealt with through the Behaviour Management process.

### Public Transport Policy:

With so many of our girls travelling distances to and from school we do have the occasional complaint about behaviour on buses.

Girls travelling to and from school are expected to follow these guidelines:

- Follow the public transport code of conduct

- Consider the rights of all passengers
- Demonstrate appropriate manners and behaviour
- Keep bags under seats or on laps

Senior girls are appointed as bus monitors and will report inappropriate behaviour to Year Level Managers who will deal with it through the Behaviour Management process.

### Student Absence

Any absence from school impacts on learning – students who miss school are often disadvantaged – educationally and socially.

Difficulties experienced can range from gaps in knowledge and continuity to missing out on important information, to social isolation as friendships break down.

To support your daughter's success we ask you aim to make appointments out of school hours wherever possible and to encourage regular attendance.

If your daughter is showing signs of being unwell in the morning it is expected that she will remain at home. The school does not have the facilities to look after girls who are sick and parents will be contacted to collect girls who report to the sick room during the day.

If your daughter is going to be absent please notify the school by a phone call before 9.30am. If an explanation has not been received by 11.30am a message will be sent, via SMS, to those parents/caregivers who have registered their mobile phone number with the school. The absence will also require a written note of explanation on the next day of attendance.

### Late Arrivals

Students who arrive late to school are required to sign in at Student Services on their arrival. Persistent late arrivals will incur a penalty.

Again we ask for your support in encouraging punctuality.

### Messages:

Unfortunately the school Reception Office does not have staff available to deliver messages to girls during the day.

In the case of an emergency we will endeavour to get a message delivered before the end of the school day.

### Personal Property

The use of mobile phones and of other personal items including iPods, CDs and MP3 players is actively discouraged during school hours and they are brought to school at the *student's own risk*. The school takes no responsibility for mobile phones or other expensive equipment that is brought to school.

The mobile phone usage agreement is found in the school diary

Thank you for your support in these matters we look forward to a successful and enjoyable year.

**Penny Tranter**  
Deputy Principal

## Staff List 2009

Name	Subject		Name	Subject
ALSTON, Sandy	Coordinator: H&PE		KAHLAND, Maggie	Maths/Science
ARNOLD, Meredith	SACE Stage 1 Manager Arts/Technology		KERR, Marcus	Assistant Principal Middle School
BADMAN, Kathy	Arts/Music/SOSE		KING, Sue	SSO – Finance Officer
BAMBROUGH, Alex	Maths/SOSE		LIEBEKNECHT, Vashti	Year 9 Manager Dance/English
BAMFORD, Caroline	English/Italian		LOVE, Paula	Chaplain
BEAUCHESNE, Michelle	SACE Stage 2 Manager H&PE		LUDLOW, Carol	English/SOSE
BEINKE, Susi	Student Counsellor Drama/NEP		MARUSSINSZKY, Helen	Coordinator: Science
BISS, Dianne	SSO – Principal's Secretary		MCLEAN, Jim	Coordinator: Technology
BRIA, Alain	IT Trainee		MOODY, Maria	Italian/French
BUOB, Ronny	Art		MURRELL, Beth	English/SOSE
CARPENTER, Anne	Year 8 Manager Technology		NEUMANN, Margaret	SSO – Administration Officer
CELLIER, Melanie	SSO -Receptionist		NIMMO, Alastair	Coordinator: English/LOTE/SHIP
CHAPLAIN – Paula Love	Chaplain		PERRE, Daniela	French
CLARKE, Sharyn	English/SOSE		PETERS, Matt	Music/Technology
COLE, Vanessa	Science/Maths		POTOCZKY, Renata	Tourism/Information Processing
CONNELLY, Chris	Visual Art/SOSE		RAGGATT, Sue	H&PE
DALKOS, Terry	Coordinator: Maths		RAYNER, Michael	SSO – Network Manager
DUHOSLAV, Herta	Business Studies/SOSE		ROSENTHAL, Alison	Coordinator: Arts/ Whole School Events
FEEGRADE, Deepika	Maths/Science		SHANNON, Alice	Librarian
FINOS, Michael	PE/Science		SIMS, Tony	Assistant Principal Year 10 Manager Systems Manager
FORSTER, Glenys	SSO – Special Ed		SMITH, Wendy	SSO – Laboratory Manager
GATFORD, Keith	Science		SHOOTER, Caitlin	SSO - Sports Assistant
GRAY, Sarah	H&PE		STEVENS, Judy	SSO – Student Services/First Aid/Rolls
GREALY, Terry	Coordinator: SOSE/ESL		TEW, Laura	Science
HENSCHKE, Penny	Maths/Science		THORNTON, Natasha	Dance
HIRSCH-BROWN, Gabi	Student Counsellor/ESL		TRANTER, Penny	Deputy Principal: Arts/SACE
HOWLETT, Sue	French/SOSE		TRIPODI, Kathy	SSO – Resource Centre Support
HSU, Melissa	SOSE		TSOUKALAS, Julie	H&PE
HUCKSTEPP, Craig	SSO - Groundsperson		WALKER, Renie	SSO – Special Needs
IVEY, Maria	English/SOSE		WARD, Virginia	English/SOSE
JEFFRIES, Anna	Science/Maths		WRIGHT, Katherine	Science/Maths
JONES, Antoinette	Principal			

## Leadership Roles and Responsibilities

<b>ALSTON, Sandy</b>	<b>Health &amp; Physical Education / Sports Coordinator</b> Zone Sport Whole School Sports Day Whole School Swimming Carnival
<b>ARNOLD, Meredith</b>	<b>SACE Stage 1 Manager</b> Stage 1 Care Group Program Stage 1 Exams Stage 1 Behaviour Management Member of the Senior School Team
<b>BEAUCHESNE, Michelle</b>	<b>SACE Stage 2 Manager</b> Stage 2 Care Group Program Stage 2 Exams Stage 2 Behaviour Management Member of the Senior School Team
<b>BEINKE, Susi</b>	<b>Student Counsellor/Special Needs</b> Enrolments Community Studies Health Screening Social Justice
<b>CARPENTER, Anne</b>	<b>Year 8 Manager</b> Year 8 Care Group Program Year 8 Student Behaviour Management Year 8 Camp and Activities Member of the Middle School Team
<b>DALKOS, Terry</b>	<b>Mathematics Coordinator</b>
<b>GREALY, Terry</b>	<b>Society &amp; Environment/ ESL Coordinator</b> Harmony Day Active8
<b>HIRSCH BROWN, Gabi</b>	<b>Student Counsellor</b> Enrolments Drug Strategy Mentoring VET Quality LinCs Peer Support
<b>LIEBEKNECHT, Vashti</b>	<b>Year 9 Manager</b> Year 9 Care Group Program Year 9 Student Behaviour Management Year 9 Camp and Activities Member of the Middle School Team
<b>MARUSSINSZKY, Helen</b>	<b>Science Coordinator</b> Oliphant Science Awards
<b>MCLEAN, Jim</b>	<b>Technology Across the Curriculum Coordinator</b> Technology Studies OHSW
<b>NIMMO, Alastair</b>	<b>English/ Languages other than English Coordinator</b> SHIP Programs
<b>ROSENTHAL, Ali</b>	<b>The Arts / Whole School Events</b> Open Day/Night Presentation Night
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Primary School Visits, SRC</b>

# New Student Reports in SA at a glance

## South Australia's negotiated position\*

### Requirements

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From 2008, by law, schools will incorporate Australian Government legislative requirements into existing local report formats for all learners in Year 1 – 10.

### Plain English

Teachers write reports using language that is clear and easy to understand so that parents/caregivers have a clear picture of their child's progress at school.

### Twice a year

Teachers report once in the first half of the year and again at the end of the year.

### Based on 5 achievement levels

A-E achievement levels or the word equivalents (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Partial or Minimal) for Year 1-7.

A-E achievement levels for Year 8-10.

### Achievement levels

Achievement levels are referenced against SACSA outcomes and standards.

This information must appear on the report:

- A *Excellent achievement beyond what is expected at this year level*
- B *Good achievement of what is expected at this year level*
- C *Satisfactory achievement of what is expected at this year level*
- D *Partial achievement of what is expected at this year level*
- E *Minimal achievement of what is expected at this year level*

### Relative achievement

Schools with more than 10 students in a particular year level prepare information that shows the number of students in each of the five achievement levels for each Learning Area. If parents request it, schools are to provide this comparative information about their child's progress.

### The exact wording to be used on the report:

*'You can ask the school to provide you with written information that clearly shows your child's*

*achievements in the subjects studied in comparison to that of other children in the child's peer group at school. This information will show you the number of students in each of the five achievement levels.'*

### Professional judgements

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Teacher professional judgement has always been the foundation for quality assessments of student achievement. Deciding a student's achievement level continues to be a matter of teacher professional judgement.

An interpretive guide to support teacher judgement in making decision about a student's achievement level is available on the SACSA website:

[www.sacsa.sa.edu.au](http://www.sacsa.sa.edu.au)

### What is reported?

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Reports to families will describe the student's achievement of the learning covered in the reporting period.

Schools are encouraged and supported to report to families in a variety of ways on an ongoing basis about their child's learning strengths, areas for improvement, social development and the effort children put into their learning.

### What about?

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#### Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities will not receive A-E achievement levels or the word equivalents for modified outcomes described in their Negotiated Education Plan (NEP). All other Learning Areas will receive A-E achievement levels or the word equivalents.

When accommodations (eg Braille, Auslan) have been used to support the student to achieve year level expectations for SACSA outcomes and standards described in their NEP an A-E achievement level or word equivalent will be given.

#### English as Second Language (ESL) students

ESL student will receive A-E achievement levels or the word equivalents. Their reports should include comments on their English language skills as informed by the ESL Scales. This should help describe how their language skills impact on their achievements in the Learning Areas.

ESL students who are enrolled in New Arrivals Program centres will not receive the New Student Report in SA.

\*as published by the Department of Education and Children's Services  
May 2008

## Sports News

Meetings to nominate for Term 1 Sport will occur recess time Wednesday 4 Feb in the school gym. Sport is played on a home and away basis and students are transported to away venues but must make their own arrangements for getting home. Sport is played from 3.30 - 4.30pm at Southern Zone Schools. Sports offered this term include:

**Tuesday:** Volleyball

**Wednesday:** Tennis,  
Basketball

**Thursday:** Indoor Soccer

**DON'T MISS THE MEETINGS  
NEXT WEEK!**

**Sandy Alston**  
H & PE Coordinator

## SACE Day

### Monday February 2

This day is the first of a series of Care Group based activities developed to provide our Year 12 students with information that will help them set realistic goals and listen to a number of speakers who may help them achieve success in this important year.

Students will have the opportunity to work in Care Groups and as a whole year level to build a strong team ethos and to set their personal goals for the year. An orientation activity in and around the grounds of the University of Adelaide is also part of the day's program. The afternoon will be spent with some of our former students who will share their experiences of Year 12 and beyond.

The 2009 SACE Day will be held in Function Rooms 1 and 2 of the Art Gallery of South Australia on North Terrace. We are looking forward to a very worthwhile day, which will provide a strong basis for an effective and successful year for our students.

**Penny Tranter**  
Deputy Principal Senior School

## Swimming Carnival

This year's carnival will be held on Wednesday 18 February in the school swimming pool. Our carnival is a fun day where everyone can join in as either a serious swimmer, relay and fun event swimmer or as part of their houses very vocal cheer squad. Fun relays eg. piggy back, unders and overs, crocodile and board relays are all run in the shallow end of the pool and are safe for swimmers and non-swimmers alike. All students are expected to come along in their house colours and be part of our first sporting event for the year.

House meetings will be held on Tuesday 3 Feb (lesson 2) and students will be asked to nominate for at least 2 events for the day. Parents are welcome and the Yr12 Home Economics students will be selling tasty food all day.

**COME ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN!**

**Sandy Alston**  
H & PE Coordinator

## Our School Houses and their Colours

### MITCHELL:

Named after Dame Roma Mitchell. The colour red is to represent the legal colour worn by judges.

### FRASER:

Named after Dawn Fraser the Olympic swimmer. The colour blue is to represent the water.

### SPENCE:

Named after Catherine Helen Spence, the author. Yellow represents the colour of much of the paper in the early 1900's.

## House Captains 2009

### Fraser

Year 9: Alex Charman  
Year 10: Bryanna Murfitt  
Year 11: Laura Evans

**Year 12 Captain: Maud Bennet-Hol**

### Mitchell

Year 9: Georgina Sulley-Beales  
Year 10: Monika Watson  
Year 11: Sam Muir

**Year 12 Captain: Hirut Murphy**

### Spence

Year 9: Kirsty Reid  
Year 10: Meg Roddy  
Year 11: Matilda Harrison

**Year 12 Captain: Brooke O'Connor**

**Sandy Alston**  
H & PE/Sport Coordinator

## Diary Dates

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### January

**Thursday 29** Year 8 Parent Evening/SHIP Evening 5:30 – 8:30pm

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### February

**Monday 2** SACE Day  
**Thursday 5** School Photos  
**Monday 9 – Friday 13** Year 8 Camps  
**Monday 9** **Governing Council 7:00pm**  
**Wednesday 18** **Swimming Carnival**  
**Thursday 19** What, When & Why No 2  
**Wednesday 25** Interschool Swimming Carnival 9:30am – 12:30pm

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### March

**Thursday 5 – Friday 6** International Women's Day Celebrations  
**Monday 9** **Adelaide Cup Day**  
**Thursday 12** What, When & Why No 3  
**Monday 23** Harmony Day Assembly 2:10pm  
**Wednesday 25 – Friday 27** Active8 Camp  
**Wednesday 25 – Friday 27** Year 12 Aquatics  
**Monday 30** Parent/Teacher Interview Booking Sheets go out  
**Tuesday 31** Year 8 Immunisations

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### April

**Thursday 2** What, When & Why No 4  
**Friday 3** **Sports Day**  
**Wednesday 8** **Girls Surf Carnival**  
**Thursday 9** **Last Day of Term 1**  
**Friday 10** **Good Friday**

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**Please return this slip to your Care Group Teacher or write a note in the student diary**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Care Group: \_\_\_\_\_

I have received *What, When and Why @ Mitcham* No 1.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive your *What, When & Why* by email?  
If so please print your email address below.

\_\_\_\_\_