

# What, When & Why

## @ Mitcham Girls High School

No 11, Thursday 29 October, Term 4, 2009

*Mitcham Girls High School*

### From the Principal...

The end of the year is fast approaching and yet so much work still needs to be done. Over the next few weeks, teachers will be extremely busy assessing students and preparing reports, and finalising classes, timetables, curriculum, co-curricular and various other activities for the beginning of 2010. It is this intensive preparation that usually allows us to have an extremely smooth start each year.

Our Year 12 students have commenced their exams. All of them have astounded us with their perseverance and their resilience and we are satisfied that they have tried to achieve their very best. We wish them well with their results and future directions. As you know however, SACE results are only one measure of success. What is equally, if not more, important is the fact that the students have grown into confident and caring young women who have the skills and abilities to negotiate various pathways, now and in the future, in order to achieve their goals.

On Friday 13 November, at 12 o'clock, we will celebrate the work and achievement of the students in Years 8, 9, 10, and 11 and all families are cordially invited to attend this assembly at the school.

Presentation Night will take place on Monday 16 November and we will celebrate the achievements of all of

our students and the work of our teachers. The focus, however, will be on our current Year 12 students, and we sincerely hope that most families will be part of this celebration.

Despite all that needs to be done to finish off the year, we cannot afford to push aside the work that will support our commitment to improve continuously the way we do things at Mitcham.

The Philosophy and Objectives Committee has reviewed the Statement of Purpose which had been developed in 2004. This is enclosed in this newsletter for your comment. We would appreciate it if you could complete the enclosed survey and ask your daughter to return it to Student Services. Alternatively, you may wish to complete the survey on line. If so, please follow the instructions provided in this booklet.

Many parents have answered the survey administered by Endicott Research Centre. Thank you for taking the time to give us feedback on our performance. Your comments will help us greatly as we go through our self study in readiness for International Accreditation in 2011.

I hope to see many of you at Presentation Night and/or at the End of Year Assembly.

### Congratulations to...

Sam Beales who represented the U/15 Marlestone SA Rep team in the CANA National Netball Championships that were recently held in Adelaide.

Sam displayed great sportsmanship and played extremely well and her team was successful in taking out the final in their age group.

**Sue Caruso**  
Coach U/15 Marlestone SA Rep Team

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Government of South Australia  
Department of Education and  
Children's Services



# Mitscham Girls High School STATEMENT OF PURPOSE 2010 - 2015

## Our Vision

Mitscham Girls High School is a professional, progressive learning community dedicated to providing outstanding educational opportunities for girls.

Mitscham Girls High School tries to meet the needs of all students and to help them attain their potential so that they may make a positive contribution to the world.

## Our Principles

At MGHS we value and promote:

1. respect
2. positive working relationships
3. diversity
4. individuality
5. fairness
6. excellence
7. world citizenship

## Our Goals<sup>1</sup>

Our students will be

1. Successful learners	2. Confident individuals	3. Active, responsible and informed global and local citizens
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop their capacity to learn and take an increasingly active role in their own learning</li> <li>• are able to solve problems in creative and innovative ways</li> <li>• are able to think deeply and logically</li> <li>• have the essential skills in literacy, numeracy and science</li> <li>• are creative and productive users of technology, especially ICT</li> <li>• are able to plan and work independently and in teams</li> <li>• are able to make sense of their world and consider how things may have become the way they are</li> <li>• are motivated to reach their full potential and are on a pathway towards continued success.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have a sense of self-worth, self-awareness and personal identity that enables them to manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical well-being</li> <li>• have a sense of optimism about their lives and the future</li> <li>• develop values such as honesty, resilience, empathy and respect for others</li> <li>• have the confidence and capability to explore and pursue any future options</li> <li>• relate well to others</li> <li>• embrace opportunities, make rational and informed decisions about their own lives and accept responsibility for their own actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appreciate Australia's social, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity</li> <li>• have an understanding of Australia's system of government, history and culture</li> <li>• acknowledge the value of Indigenous cultures and appreciate the importance of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians</li> <li>• are committed to democracy, equity and justice, and are able to participate in civic life</li> <li>• are internationally minded and able to relate to and communicate across cultures, especially the cultures and countries of Asia</li> <li>• balance the interests of self, the community and the sustainability of the planet.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Adopted from *National Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*, Dec 2008

## **Explanatory Notes**

### **What is a Professional, Progressive Learning Community?<sup>2</sup>**

A professional, progressive learning community is an inclusive group of staff who support and work with each other to enhance student learning. The staff, motivated by such a collective purpose, will enquire into their practice and together learn and apply new and better approaches to teaching and learning.

#### **Characteristic of a professional, progressive learning community:**

1. Student learning and engagement is a shared focus.
2. Staff have high expectations of students.
3. A culture of continuous improvement is evident.
4. Team planning and teamwork are common features.
5. There is collaboration across the whole school.
6. All staff are involved in and value professional learning.
7. A range of professional learning activities takes place eg: peer mentoring, observation lessons, induction program, whole staff professional development, targeted professional development, moderation of student work, etc.
8. Staff learn individually, with and from each other.
9. Staff take collective responsibility for promoting and supporting each other's learning.
10. Reflective practice is valued.
11. Research and enquiry inform teaching and learning, eg mutual observation, self-evaluation, role and performance management.
12. Data is analysed and used for reflection and improvement, eg assessment results, NAPLAN.
13. Input from students is valued.
14. External moderators are used to evaluate the operations of the school.
15. People are open to change.
16. Risk taking, creativity and innovative thinking are encouraged.
17. There is one large community involving all staff, not just lots of small communities.
18. Working relationships are positive.
19. There is mutual trust and respect.

#### **Possible processes/ideas for developing a professional, progressive learning community**

1. Funding is allocated to support the development of the professional, progressive learning community
2. The idea of a professional, progressive learning community is included in policy documents and development plans.
3. The staffroom, staff work rooms and learning spaces are used for community building and learning.
4. Professional development is co-ordinated to promote learning.
5. Role management, performance development, induction and mentoring are consistent with the values of developing a professional, progressive learning community.
6. Sharing practice and creating common understanding is emphasised.
7. Support is given to help develop learning and teaching strategies and skills.
8. Attention is paid to dealing with issues that get in the way of development.
9. Leadership of learning is distributed throughout the school.

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<sup>2</sup> based on:

*Creating and Sustaining Effective Professional Learning Communities*, Bolam, R., McMahon, A., Stoll, L., Thomas, S & Wallace, M, with Greenwood, A, Hawkey, K, Ingram, M, Atkinson, A, & Smith, M, 2005, *DfES Research Report RR637*, University of Bristol.

## Survey

Mitcham Girls High School is planning for the next five years (2010-2015)

Recently, a committee, comprising of one parent, two teachers and five students, was set up to review the current Statement of Purpose.

We have made some minor changes to the MGHS Vision Statement and to the Principles that guide our work.

The committee looked closely at the *National Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*, December 2008 and decided to adopt the same goals.

We would now like to have your views on the proposed Mitcham Girls High School Statement of Purpose (2010-2015).

If you are looking at your "What When Why" on a computer, click the following link to start the survey.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=hWrhFMt0FYBj2WA1VRJSnA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=hWrhFMt0FYBj2WA1VRJSnA_3d_3d)

If you are reading a printed copy of "What When Why" please complete the paper survey and return to the school.

Thank you.

**Jim McLean for Antoinette Jones and the Planning Committee**

## Part A:

### Our Vision

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

Mitcham Girls High School tries to meet the needs of all students and to help them find their potential so that they may make a positive contribution to the world.

### Question 1:

On a scale of 1-10 please indicate your level of satisfaction (✓) with the proposed vision.

0      1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

Comment

## Part B:

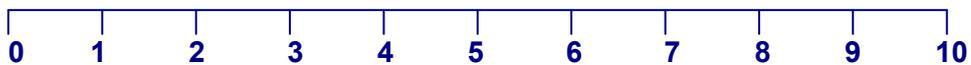
### Our Principles:

At MGHS we value and promote

1. respect
2. positive working relationships
3. diversity
4. individuality
5. fairness
6. excellence
7. world citizenship

### Question 2

On a scale of 1-10 please indicate your level of satisfaction (✓) with the proposed principles



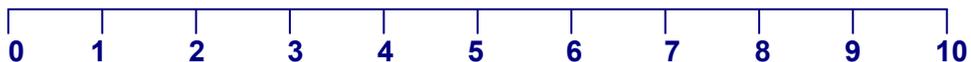
### Question 3

Are there any other principles you think we should add?

## Part C:

### Question 4

On a scale of 1-10 please indicate your level of satisfaction (✓) with Goal Number 1 (Our students will be successful learners)



Comment

### Question 5

On a scale of 1-10 please indicate your level of satisfaction (✓) with Goal Number 2 (Our students will be confident individuals)



Comment

### Question 6

On a scale of 1-10 please indicate your level of satisfaction (✓) with Goal Number 3 (Our students will become active, informed global and local citizens)



Comment

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

**Antoinette Jones**  
for the committee

## School Dental Service

The South Australian Dental Service provides a range of dental services for children at clinics throughout Adelaide and all major country regional centres.

Dental care is provided by dental teams consisting of Dentists, Dental Therapists and Dental Assistants.

**All preschool, primary and secondary students aged under 18 years, are eligible for care with the School Dental Service. Fees and conditions apply.**

**From 1 July 2009 there will be some changes to School Dental Service fees:**

- All School Dental Service care is **free for preschool children** (general and emergency).
- Children who are dependents of/holders of Centrelink Concession Cards, Veterans Affairs Pension Concession Cards or School Cards are eligible to receive free dental care (general and emergency).
- For primary and secondary school children who are not dependants of/holders of the above concessions, a fee will apply for each course of general dental care provided.
- Students with a Commonwealth Government Teen Dental Voucher are welcome to use it at the School Dental Service. If presented at a School Dental clinic it will entitle them to a full course of dental treatment including preventive care and any treatment if required.
- Dental emergencies treated at a School Dental Clinic between check ups will be covered by the fee paid at your child's most recent check up.

For information about appointments and fees, contact your local

**School Dental Clinic**

on

**8271 0371**

Parents of children with special physical or intellectual needs should contact their local School Dental Clinic to discuss their child's needs.

In case of a dental emergency contact your local clinic to arrange an appointment. For after hours emergency advice phone 8232 2651 (children only).

# Council Page

The Governing Council of Mitcham Girls High School, along with the Principal, is responsible for the effective management of the School:

- It meets 2 times per term
- Has 15 parent members that make up the Council representing all year levels
- includes the Principal, Ms Jones, Staff Rep, Ms Ivey and School Business Manager, Ms Neumann
- 2 SRC Representatives attend most meetings

The Governing Council is bound and guided by a Constitution set by DECS with supplementary guidelines specific to our own school.

## Sub-Committees:

Canteen  
Finance  
Fundraising  
Physical Resources

Policy Development & Review  
Technology  
Uniform

Committees have parent, staff and student representation.

Members of the Council attend Open Days, Assemblies and other events where the School needs a parent Representative.

**In 2009** we have been working on a number of issues that need to be highlighted. In particular –

- the redevelopment of the main quadrangle,
- the refurbishment of the Science Labs and Visual Arts rooms
- improving security of the school buildings out of hours
- CIS accreditation
- Policy Development and Review
- the Movie Night and Quiz Night as fundraising
- ongoing financial management
- Canteen marketing and improving profits

You can be assured that **at all times we are there to represent the thoughts of our parents.** It is a great way to hear about how the school works and to have your say.

## The Governing Council's AGM wil be held in March 2010.

Anyone can come along even if you don't want to join. Or you can volunteer for a committee and not even have to come to the main meetings. All participation is welcome and encouraged.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me through the school admin office – 8272 8233.

**Marcia Evans**  
Chairperson

## YEARBOOK 2009

**Remember Sports Day?  
Remember Swimming Carnival?  
Remember your school camp?  
Remember those teachers?  
Want to remember them forever?**

The **Mitcham Girls 2009 Yearbook** will be available in Term 4! And it features all the important **events of 2009** *plus* your participation in **all other facets of student life**.

**The yearbook is a valuable memento of school life and no doubt, you'll be in it!** It's a great keepsake for you to be able to reflect on your time at Mitcham Girls. Want to remember what you were like in Year 8?

**PAY \$ 25 NOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. LIMITED PRINT RUN AND THERE ARE NO REPRINTS!**

You can pay for your copy in person at the Finance Office or **pay over the phone on 8272 8233**.

YEARBOOK WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOUR CARE GROUP AT THE END OF THE DAY WEDNESDAY WEEK 9.

### What's New to do at Lunchtime

Are you bored at lunch and want to get active? Why not take part in some of the following activities:

#### EFM:

Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:45 - 1:15pm.

#### POOL:

Everyday from 12:45 - 1:15pm (must have current pool pass)

#### BEACH VOLLEYBALL PRACTICE:

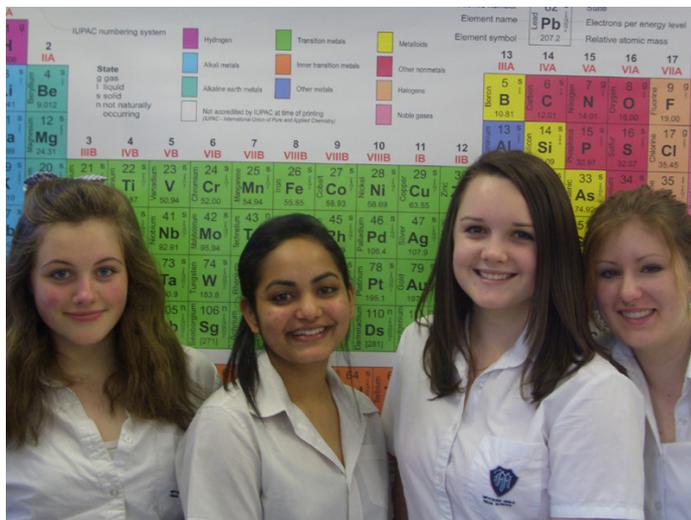
Tuesday - Thursday 1:00-1:30pm

#### GYM BORROWING:

Everyday from 12:45 - 1:15pm

## Science News Chemistry Quiz

Congratulations to all students who entered the RACI National Chemistry Quiz especially Beth Holmes who received a Credit and Hyun-Jeong Kim, Matilda Harrison, Aakriti Lath and Emily Bridges who all received distinctions!



### Health of the River Conference

Congratulations to Gabriela Gomez-Manjarrez who, with the sponsorship of Edwardstown Rotary, has been chosen to attend this conference at Renmark from Thursday 29 October to Sunday 1 November.

**Helen Marussinszky**  
Science Coordinator

### Staff versus Year 12 Student Volleyball Match

In the last week of Term 3, a Staff versus Year 12 Student Volleyball match was held. This gives both the staff and students a chance to let their hair down and have a bit of fun.

The first set was very close, with the staff winning by just two points. However, the staff ran away with the second set and defeated the students 25 – 12. The students had plenty of opportunities to beat the staff but the teachers' team had Mr Nimmo at the front of the net doing a wonderful job of blocking everything that came.

Thank you to all staff who were involved in making it a fun game and, of course, thank you to the Year 12s for playing and leaving in good spirits despite the loss. Good luck in all your exams girls.

**Caitlin Shooter**  
Sports Assistant

## Sports Results

After school sport results from Rounds 2 – 5 are as follows:

Team	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
<b>Year 8/9 Volleyball</b>	Mitcham defeated St Mary's 3 sets – 0	Mitcham defeated Adelaide 3 sets – 0	Mitcham defeated Glenunga Navy Forfeit	Mitcham defeated Blackwood 3 sets - 1
<b>Year 10/11 Volleyball</b>	Blackwood defeated Mitcham 3 sets – 1	Mitcham defeated Adelaide 3 sets – 0	No Match	Mitcham defeated Glenunga 3 sets – 1
<b>Year 8/9 Basketball</b>	Mitcham defeated Blackwood 62 – 10	Mitcham defeated St John's Maroon 29 – 25	Glenunga Gold defeated Mitcham 29 – 25	Mitcham defeated Adelaide 56 – 18
<b>Year 8/9 Badminton</b>	Seaview defeated Mitcham 126 – 59	Mitcham defeated St Mary's Navy 126 – 73	Mitcham defeated St Mary's White 168 – 71	No Match
<b>Year 8/9 Indoor Soccer</b>	Unley defeated Mitcham 4 – 3 Mitcham drew with Adelaide 2 – 2	Adelaide defeated Mitcham 3 – 1 Mitcham defeated Sunrise 5 – 1	Mitcham defeated Blackwood 4 - 3	Adelaide defeated Mitcham 2 – 0 Blackwood defeated Mitcham 5 - 4

**Caitlin Shooter**  
Sports Assistant

### House Sport

House Sport for Term 4 will, unfortunately, not be as long as previous terms due to major events such as exams and beach volleyball. We will, however, have a short competition so the newly elected House Captains can become familiar with procedures and work on their organisational skills ready for a busy year next year, filled with events such as Sports Day, Swimming Carnival and House Sports.

The program for House Sport for Term 4 is as follows;

#### **Week 2-3:**

Year 10/11 - Volleyball competition Monday lunch.

#### **Week 4-5: Year 9:**

Sport undecided as yet.

#### **Week 7-8: Year 8:**

Volleyball competition Monday lunch.

House Captains start organising your teams now, don't forget the points you win contribute to the Collyer Cup.

**Caitlin Shooter**  
Sports Assistant

### Beach Volleyball

In Week 6 of this term, approximately 300 Mitcham Girls students will be competing in a Beach Volleyball 'Schools Cup' Tournament. This competition has always proved to be a popular event at Mitcham Girls H.S and this year is no different.

So far we have received 8 nominations for both the Year 8 and 9 teams division, 16 nominations in the 10/11/12 teams division, 9 teams for the pairs division and many more nominations still to come.

It's a great day and allows students to enjoy the sun, surf and sand and to be active.

**Caitlin Shooter**  
Sports Assistant

## House Captains

House Captain elections took place in Week 9 last term. All votes were collated and the new House Captains have been decided. The votes were very close, and I would like to thank all the girls who nominated. The House Captains for 2009/2010 are as follows:

### Fraser:

**Year 8→9:** Kelly Harrison

**Year 9→10:** Gemma Ball

**Year 10→11:** Bryanna Murfitt

**Year 11→12:** Laura Gaiter

### Mitchell:

**Year 8→9:** Lydia Heise

**Year 9→10:** Georgina Sulley-Beales

**Year 10→11:** Aurora Williams

**Year 11→12:** Vrinda Dick

### Spence:

**Year 8→9:** Sherry-Rose Fombason

**Year 9→10:** Geena Suphke

**Year 10→11:** Meg Roddy & Sam Beales

**Year 11→12:** Jacinta Playford

Congratulations to you all, I look forward to working with you over the next term.

**Caitlin Shooter, Sports Assistant**

## Diary Dates

<b>October</b>	<b>Thursday 29</b>	<i>What, When &amp; Why No 11 Home</i>
	<b>Thursday 29 &amp; Friday 30</b>	Year 11 Aquatics
	<b>Thursday 29</b>	Year 7/8 Transition Day 1A
	<b>Friday 30</b>	Year 7/8 Transition Day 1B
		Year 12 Art/Design/Craft submission
<b>November</b>	<b>Monday 2 – Friday 20</b>	<b>SSABSA HG Exams</b>
	<b>Monday 2</b>	Senior School Assembly
		Middle School Assembly Lesson 4
	<b>Tuesday 3</b>	Physical Resources Meeting 9:00am
	<b>Wednesday 4</b>	Year 12 Hanging Art Day
	<b>Thursday 5 &amp; Friday 6</b>	Year 10 Aquatics
	<b>Friday 6</b>	Year 12 Art Marking Day
	<b>Monday 9</b>	Senior School Assembly
		SRC Business Lesson 4
		Year 10 & 11 Library lists distributed
	<b>Tuesday 10</b>	Year 8 Assembly
		Dance Night (Year 10 & 11)
		Year 9 Assembly
	<b>Friday 13</b>	Whole School Assembly, 12:00pm: Academic Achievement
		Photo Moderation
	<b>Monday 16</b>	Senior School Assembly
		Year 8 Beach Volleyball
		<b>Presentation Night</b>
	<b>Tuesday 17</b>	Year 9 Beach Volleyball
		Years 10, 11, 12 Pairs Volleyball
<b>Wednesday 18</b>	Year 10/11/12 Beach Volleyball	
<b>Thursday 19</b>	<i>What, When &amp; Why No 12 Home</i>	
<b>Friday 20</b>	Final Locker Clearance: Stage 2	
	How Girls Learn Conference	
	<b>Formal</b>	

Year level	Date	Action
Stage 2	Friday 20 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final clearance day for all Stage 2 students.</li> <li>All lockers should be empty and clean.</li> </ul>
Stage 1	Monday 9 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Stage 1 student will be provided with a list showing all resources on loan.</li> </ul>
	Friday 27 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last day to return resources.</li> <li>All lockers should be empty and clean.</li> </ul>
Year 10	Monday 9 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Year 10 student will be provided with a list showing all resources on loan.</li> </ul>
	Friday 27 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last day to return resources.</li> <li>All lockers should be empty and clean.</li> </ul>
Year 9	Monday 16 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Year 9 student will be provided with a list showing all resources on loan.</li> <li>Students are asked to clean out lockers and to return any resources they no longer need.</li> </ul>
	Thursday 3 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 9s to return all resources.</li> <li>All lockers should be empty and clean.</li> </ul>
	Friday 4 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Locker check. Any resources to be returned to the Library immediately.</li> </ul>
Year 8	Monday 23 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Year 8 student will be provided with a list showing all resources on loan.</li> <li>Students are asked to clean out lockers and to return any resources they no longer need.</li> </ul>
	Wednesday 2 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 8s to return all resources.</li> <li>All lockers should be empty and clean.</li> </ul>
	Friday 4 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Locker check. Any resources to be returned to the Library immediately.</li> </ul>
<b>PLEASE NOTE: Any lockers not emptied by 2.25pm on December 9<sup>th</sup> will be opened and cleaned out by staff.</b>		
Accounts will be issued in Week 9 for all non-returned items		

**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 11

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

Any comments?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_