

What, When & Why

@ Mitcham Girls High School

No 2, Thursday 12 February, Term 1, 2009

From the Principal...

Bushfire appeal

As a school, we are trying to do whatever we can to support the victims of the Victorian bushfires.

The SRC will donate the proceeds of the casual day, to be held on 25 March, to the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal.

The staff is also donating money and there is also a collection box at reception.

Teagan White, a Year 10 student, has certainly acted quickly and decisively – she placed an ice-cream container in the canteen encouraging students to place their small change in it. An amazing \$124.00 was collected in two days. Teagan's compassion and resolute action are to be commended.



We ask the Mitcham Community to be as generous as possible, for, although we do not have the capacity to collect millions of dollars, I am sure that every dollar collected will be used to rebuild communities. If you wish to donate, give the money to your daughter who will give it to the SRC.

Annual General Meeting of the Governing Council

When: Monday 16 March
Time: 7.00 pm
Place: MGHS - Staff room

The Governing Council of the school is made up of parents and friends who have an interest in the running of the school and at this meeting we will be electing new members to join for 2009.

We will always welcome new members as the Council needs a range of opinions and differing points of view in order to truly represent the views of the school community when discussing issues covering all aspects of the running of the school.

The Governing Council meets twice a term and sub-committees at a similar frequency, so the time you dedicate to Council activities need not be great, but many of our members enjoy the involvement and often willingly contribute much more of their time.

I urge you to attend the AGM and hope that many of you will consider joining the Governing Council on this night.

Neil Petherbridge
Chairperson, Governing Council

My name is Vicki Fletcher, and I have been on Governing Council for the five years that my daughter, Rebecca, has been at Mitcham Girls High School. As Rebecca completed her secondary schooling at MGHS last year, my time as a member of the Governing Council and various sub-committees is coming to an end.

I strongly urge each and every parent and/or caregiver to consider becoming a member of the Governing Council of MGHS, or even just a member of one of the many sub-committees within the school. Whether you are new to the school, or part way through the high school experience, the benefits of being involved far outweigh any inconvenience attending meetings may cause you.

Being a member of one of the school's committees is a great way to meet other parents, teachers and staff of the school, student representatives, and the principal, not to mention getting first hand knowledge on the workings and management of the school. It certainly helped me feel a part of my daughter's high school years, especially given the distance we lived from the school.

Simply come along to the AGM and check it out, there's absolutely no obligation to join if you decide it's not for you. Or, if you can't make it to the AGM, but are interested in joining either the Governing Council or one of the sub-committees, advise the school so that you can begin your involvement in the MGHS community.

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International Women's Day March 8

Once again we will celebrate this significant day with a number of activities at the school.

UNESCO's theme for 2009 has inspired us to explore the boundaries faced by many women across the world.

Women Crossing Boundaries – Women For Change... *we are limited only by the boundaries imposed on us by others or ourselves.*

Women who are challenging a range of boundaries including those imposed by poverty, stereo-typing, oppression and violence will be our guest speakers at a whole school assembly.

On Friday 6 March a *Breakfast for Change* will be held to raise funds for Geraldine Cox's Sunrise Children's Village in Cambodia.

Penny Tranter
Deputy Principal

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.

The Dress Code is published in the student diary.

Please note: the new Mitcham navy sports top is to be worn for PE or sports events only.

Shoes that are acceptable for school must be solid, (leather or equivalent) black, fully enclosed shoes that either lace up, or include a supportive strap or buckle.

Please refer to the insert of this newsletter or to posters around the school and in the Uniform Shop to confirm what is acceptable.

Canvas volleys are not acceptable.

Penny Tranter
Deputy Principal
on behalf of the Uniform Committee

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Please note the current opening hours for the Uniform Shop at Mitcham Girls High School are 8.00am - 1.30pm on Thursdays.

Our apologies for any inconvenience caused by these changes.

Science and Art Collide

The Dome Project, 23 February–1 March

Taking planetarium movies to a whole new level, the Dome Project brings together the best and most innovative film works produced for planetariums/full-dome theatres. No longer limited to the cosmos, any subject matter's now fair game, exploding the frame of what a planetarium dome theatre can be.

The Best of DomeFest

David Beining, DomeFest Founder and Director, introduces his program of DomeFest highlights:

When: Wed 25 Feb, Thur 26 Feb, Sat 28 Feb, Sun 1 March; 6:00pm & 7:30pm

Where: Mawson Lakes Planetarium (bus leaves from outside the SA Museum)

How: \$20/\$15 (includes transport).

Book via www.adelaidefilmfestival.org, 01300 727 432 or in person from the AFF Box Office adjacent to the Palace Cinema, 6 Cinema place (enter via Vaughan Place off Rundle Street).

Portable Dome

FREE preview program features Celestial mechanics (Scott Hessels), Poème électronique (Le Corbusier & Edgard Varèse), and excerpts from Future memory (Amanda Phillips & Alexander Waite Mitchell).

When: Sat 21 Feb – Tues 24 Feb; daily between 4:00pm and 8:00pm (with extended hours, 2pm-8pm, on Sunday 22nd)

Where: South Australian Museum forecourt, North Terrace

How: Free. No bookings required, just drop in.

Helen Marussinszky
Science Coordinator

Sports News

A new year is upon us again, and so too is after school sport. This term Mitcham has entered 6 school sport teams in the Southern Zone after school sport competition.

Our teams include; Year 8/9 Basketball, Year 8/9 Tennis, Open Tennis, Year 8/9 Volleyball, Open Volleyball and Open Indoor Soccer.

The competition begins Tuesday 17 February (Week 4) and will run until the 10 April (Week 11).

Make sure you listen to the school notices in the morning to find out when your team is practising. Also ensure your consent form and payment is made as soon as possible.

We encourage parents to come and support and encourage their daughter/s in the after school sport competition.

Caitlin Shooter
Sports Assistant

Harmony Day

Spirit of Ghana Assembly



With 20 hand-made African drums, flutes and stunning costumes Wala engage their audiences in a call and response song, invite them to try out different instruments and to join in the dance. Their enthusiasm is utterly contagious as they rejoice in the live sounds and rich heritage of their people.



Wala means "life" in their local language and the perfection of the name becomes clear as they explode into their breathtaking celebration of the Ghanaian Spirit.



The assembly will be held on Wednesday 23 March at 2:10pm.

Gold coin donation please.

What's New To Do At Lunchtime

Are you bored at lunch? Do you want to get fit? Then why not make use of our very own gym in the EFM. It has fantastic equipment and weights to help you get fit and into shape this summer.

It's open every Monday and Wednesday at lunchtime so come in and have fun keeping fit.

With all this hot weather we've been having, why not come and keep cool in our school's pool. It's a good way to stay cool and have fun with your friends.

The pool is open every lunch throughout Term 1 so come and have a splash in our wonderful school pool.

Any girls who wish to swim must ensure they have a pool pass. If you do not yet have a pool pass, come to the PE office at recess or lunchtime to collect a medical form.

Caitlin Shooter
Sports Assistant



Honesty Badge

We congratulate Caitlin Feagan for her honesty in returning lost items.

by Mercy Kamara 8.05

Outside it was still light. The sun was setting, though, and the sky was pink and orange over the trees. Ching Ching, Ma-Musu and I ate our ice-creams as fast as we could and went back to playing cricket. Ching Ching and Ma-Musu made their ice creams last as long as possible and then decided to go for another swim. "It's so nice to swim as it gets dark," said Ching Ching. "The water's so warm and you can just lie on your back and watch the bats go by and the stars come out." Ma-Musu agreed. They paddled and talked and looked at the sky and, except for the boys shouting as they played cricket, it was very peaceful!

After a while, it was too dark for the boys to see the ball and they packed up and went back inside. It was really quiet by the pool now, and a tiny bit spooky. "Do you ever think," said Ma-Musu, "you could just sink under the water and never come up?" "Yeah," said Ching Ching. "You could swim so deep you got sucked down that big plug hole." They shuddered happily at the thought. They did this sometimes – talked about scary things to see how badly they could frighten themselves. "And the next day there'd be nothing but your pigtail stuck in the pool filter," said Ma-Musu. "And then one foot would be washed up on a beach, miles and miles away," said Ching Ching. "Eeuw!" they said together, laughing but holding tight onto the edge of the pool, just in case.

"We should sleep out here tonight," said Ching Ching. "Yeah?" said Ma-Musu, "what about mosquitoes?" "We would sleep right under the sheet," said Ching Ching. "Maybe we could burn one of these smelly candles too." "And we could stay all night and watch the sunrise," said Ma-Musu

"Ching Ching!" It was Mrs Adams calling from the back door. "Time for bed, you and Ma-Musu, out of the pool, now!"

"You can tell your mum is a school teacher," said Ma-Musu. They got out of the pool and found that their fingers and toes had gone wrinkly. The air was cool on their wet skin and by the time they got inside they were shivering. They stood together in front of the bathroom mirror with their matching toothbrushes, giggling and trying to brush their chattering teeth. They brushed their hair and Ching Ching tied hers back in long low plaits for bed. They changed into their pyjamas and decided it was too much effort to sleep outside that night.

Ching Ching had bunk beds and, because it was the first time Ma-Musu had slept over, she got to sleep on top. "I always read for a bit before I go to sleep," said Ching Ching. "Would you like to borrow a book, or do you have one?" "Borrow one please," said Ma-Musu, because Ching Ching always had heaps of books. Ma-Musu supposed it was because both her parents were teachers. Ma-Musu found one about a girl who ran away to sea on a pirate ship. It looked very interesting.

To be continued....

Diary Dates

February

Thursday 19	What, When & Why No 2
Wednesday 25	Interschool Swimming Carnival 9:30am – 12:30pm
Thursday 26	Year 8 Parent Evening 5:30 – 6:30pm

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

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 – Monday 13	Easter Weekend
Monday 27	Term 2 Begins
Wednesday 29	Parent/Teacher Interviews

May

Monday 4 – Friday 8	Year 9 Camp
Thursday 7 – Friday 8	Year 10 Aquatics
Monday 11	Open Day/Night
Tuesday 12 – Thursday 14	NAPLAN Testing
Thursday 14	What, When & Why No 3

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.
