

What, When & Why

@ Mitcham Girls High School

No 4, Friday 30 April 2010, Term 2

Mitcham Girls High School

From the Principal...

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Thanks to the parents who took the opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss the progress of their daughters. It was certainly pleasing to see so many of you, probably the highest number we have ever had. I don't need to tell you that students perform better when parents and teachers work together to ensure that students achieve their full potential.

The next Parent/Teacher interviews will take place in Term 4. At that time, parents will be able to make their bookings online.

We hope that parents are now getting used to accessing information on our website: www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au. We update it almost daily and post important information for your benefit. We also welcome your ideas for improving it. Please email your suggestions to us: info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au.

End of Term Reports

Students should have brought their reports home on Thursday 1 April. I know you will have a discussion with your daughter about her grades and her attendance. It is very important that you also take note of the number of tasks completed. If she has not completed them all, please support your daughter to manage her time better so that all tasks can be completed. Unless students learn to manage their time well and are able to meet deadlines in the Middle School years, they will find it difficult to do so when they reach Years 11 and 12.

Science Refurbishment

Demolition has started and work on a power upgrade commenced this week. Students and staff will be inconvenienced to some extent but I am sure that all of us are happy to put up with a little discomfort in the knowledge that very soon we will have new Science Laboratories and a more reliable power supply.

Can you help?

As you know we are working towards accreditation. We have formed seven different self study groups as well as eight curriculum groups to review our practices. We would like to have parent representation on the Student and

Community Life Group. It deals with policies on student behaviour, student activities programs, student representation on committees, international and intercultural awareness and communication. If you think you would like to join this committee please contact me for more information. You do not need to have committee experience we just need your input on various issues.

New Staff

This term we welcome Mr Michael Whelan who replaces Mr Lambert and Ms Claire Kilner who replaces Ms Moody who is on long service leave.

Congratulations to Ashleigh Beales (8.05) who has been selected as a member of the Combined Australian Netball Association (CANA) 13 Years and Under Touring Team to New Zealand in April /May 2010. Well done and we wish her and the team every success.



**Winner of What, When & Why No. 3
\$20 canteen voucher**



Sharlie Sharp (11.31)

What, When & Why No. 4

Make sure you return the signed slip to Student Services to be in the running for a \$20 canteen voucher. Winner will be announced Monday 17 May at Senior School Assembly.

Antoinette Jones
Principal

Kyre Ave
KINGSWOOD SA
P 8272 8233
F 8373 3013

www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au
info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au

Year 12 Survival Tactics

- **Celebrate** past successes and milestones and be proud of making it to your final year – this will help you to remain enthusiastic and work hard to achieve all that you can.
- **Develop** a routine – this will help you stay organised and in control and encourage you to develop good patterns of behaviour early.
- **Maintain** a healthy balanced diet as early in the year as possible and set aside time for physical exercise and relaxation activities.
- **Establish** a timetabled weekly schedule for each school term – factor in casual/part-time work commitments, leisure and family time and sleep.
- **Aim** to wake up at the same time every morning – this will allow you to get the most out of your study time earlier in the day.
- **Avoid** ‘all nighters’ – remember that a late night on Saturday will impact severely on your capacity to study early on Sunday. You will learn more effectively when you’re not exhausted.
- **Set** short term goals – this will keep you motivated and help you to measure your progress.
- **Reward** yourself safely – don’t overdo the partying and drinking. Congratulate yourself on how far you’ve come.
- **Remind** yourself continually throughout the year how close you are to the end.

Penny Tranter
Deputy Principal

STOP PRESS

Your daughter should have brought a letter home informing you that the Year 11 Study Room will be relocated to Room 21 and the Year 12 Common Room will be relocated to Room 24.

Please rest assured there will be no disruption to our teaching program.

Maths News

Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) Thursday 5th August 2010

The AMC is one of the largest competitions of its kind in the world! It is for students of all standards and all year levels.

Last year we had a record number of students from our school who participated in this competition with outstanding results. We would like to further improve the number of participants this year!

All students will receive a certificate acknowledging their participation and a detailed report showing how the student fared on each question, enabling them to check their performance in critical detail.

The entry fee for this competition is **\$4.50**, which is payable to the Finance Office no later than Thursday 6th May. Please support and encourage your daughter(s) to take part in this prestigious opportunity that occurs only once a year!

Alex Bambrough
Maths Teacher

Make Poverty History

In the last 20 years, we have halved global poverty, but there are still 1.4 billion people struggling.

From the 8 to 15 May 1,000 young Australians, including me, aged between 16 and 26 are taking part in a week long road trip. We will all meet up in Canberra to spread the MakePovertyHistory message and raise awareness of global poverty.

Through flashmobs, meetings with MPs and businesses, speeches at schools, music events and more we will make the movement for support needed to make a real change. Get involved!

Both sides of parliament have said that if 40,000 people sign this petition – then they will sign it through to parliament. Sign online at www.acttoendpoverty.com.au.

For more information on The Road Trip or the Canberra summit, visit www.theroadtrip.com.au. Aid can work! Aid changes lives!

Genna Mickan
11.33



Sports News

On Friday 26 March, Mitcham was alive with the colours of red, blue and yellow as our annual Sports Day took place.

As students were brilliantly dressed and painted, ready for a day of sports, teamwork and participation the gym was soon filled with both excitement and glitter.

The day began with two rounds of the team sport competition, with students keen to have their chance to shine in Volleyball, Tennis, Soccer and Frisbee. Each of these sports rounds was very close, with the winning houses narrowly defeating the opposition.

While these games were battled out for first position, those students who had no activities took to the novelty events on Kingswood Oval. Taking turns in football kick, softball throw, netball shoot and cricket accuracy, it seemed as though Spence battled the hardest, winning the highest amount of points for the events, contributing to a large percentage of their overall score.

At Recess, the girls were fed well as Ms Small and her Year 12 class did a brilliant job of the catering. The students enjoyed the satisfying food immensely, having worn themselves out competing for their team.

Although the muggy weather started to impact on the liveliness of the students, the enthusiasm was not completely gone. After a very entertaining performance from the Year 12 Theatre Sports competition, the school headed to the oval for the commencement of the relays, sprints and novelty events.

From the moment these competitions began, the girls tried their very best to win the overall cup.

Results

| | Junior | Senior | Overall |
|----------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Spence | 1076 | 1216 | 2292 |
| Fraser | 984 | 1283 | 2267 |
| Mitchell | 795 | 1203 | 1998 |

Congratulations to Spence who took out the overall cup narrowly defeating Fraser by just 25 points.



As usual, Sports Day was enjoyable, action packed and very colourful. Deemed a success by both students and staff, the exceptional outcome would not have been achieved without the contribution from staff organisers and officials, House Captains, Vice Captains, Ms Small's Year 12 catering class and finally, the students who put in their best efforts to participate and have a great time.



Congratulations:

Congratulations to the Open Girls Volleyball Team, Mitcham White, who defeated the previously undefeated Hamilton in the Zone Sport Grand Final. Well done to all students who played throughout the season, we had some very pleasing results from all teams who participated.

In Term 2, we have a range of new Zone Sports on offer, including Soccer on Tuesdays, Badminton and Netball on Wednesdays, and Football on Thursdays after school. Each of the games run from 3:30 – 4:30pm. For those who are interested in participating in these sports, keep your ears out for notices regarding meetings. If you know of any parents or teachers who are interested in coaching or managing a team, let the PE staff know.

Thanks,
Maud Bennett - Hol
 Sport Assistant

Science News

Here are some amazing opportunities for students in Years 9 to 11.

Years 9 and 10 - Science Experience 2011

This program is designed to provide you with an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of scientists who love their work. It is hands on fun!

Last year this included Science magic, Virtual Reality, Sensory Studies, Bugs, Genes & Proteins, Through the Eye of a Fly, Bug Smashing Pharmaceutical and Robot Orienteering.

Where: Adelaide or Flinders University and Roseworthy Campus.

When: Late January 2011

Financial sponsorship is available from your local Rotary club.

Visit www.scienceexperience.com.au.

Year 10 - are you interested in Space? Apply for Space School!

- Meet a NASA astronaut.
- Perform experiments and watch demonstrations at University of Adelaide Physics Laboratories.
- Visit the Defence Science & Technology Organisation.
- Hear inspiring talks about careers in space science, physics, engineering and life sciences.
- Visit the RAAF Air Base at Edinburgh and be escorted by pilots through various testing facilities and aircraft.
- Visit the Planetarium at the University of SA.
- Visit PIPEHENGE.
- Have a great time, and of course, make many new friends!

Where: Accommodated at the RAH Residential Wing

When: 5–7 July 2010.

Hurry entries close Friday 21st May. Visit www.spaceschool.com.

Year 10 'Chemical Murder Mystery'

This will be at Flinders University during Week 10 this term. Only 30 students can attend. Interested students need to write an application to their teachers by Monday 3rd May including what they can expect to gain from this forensic experience.

Year 11

Apply for the National Youth Forum. This is the only program in Australia that offers the chance to test-drive a wide range of universities and careers in the sciences. Financial sponsorship is available from your local Rotary club.

Where: Canberra and Perth

When: January 2011

It will be amazing!

Visit <http://www.nysf.edu.au/>

Hurry applications close May 30th

Please ask your teachers for more information or help with your application.

Helen Marussinszky
Science Coordinator

Girls' School Graduates Have An Edge

For the first time, educators have solid evidence of girls' schools' effectiveness. In April 2009, UCLA's Graduate School of Education & Information Studies released the results of a well-documented, national study which shows the statistically significant edge girls' school graduates have over their co-ed peers. This peer-reviewed research disentangles the effects of single-sex education from confounding demographic influences. At a time when education is on the national agenda, UCLA's study will make a significant contribution to the discussion.

The findings, analysed by UCLA's Dr. Linda J. Sax and her colleagues, draws on the large database housed at UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute. Descriptive comparisons as well as statistical analyses compares the achievements, aspirations, and behaviours of 6,552 graduates of 225 independent girls' schools, and 14,684 of their peers from 1,169 co-educational high schools (public, independent, and parochial).

According to the UCLA report, which was commissioned by the National Coalition of Girls' Schools, girls' school graduates consistently assess their abilities, self-confidence, engagement and ambition as either above average or in the top 10 percent. Compared to their co-ed peers, they have more confidence in their mathematics and computer abilities and study longer hours. They are more likely to pursue careers in engineering, engage in political discussions, keep current with political affairs, and see college as a stepping stone to graduate school. The new data from UCLA's nationwide study of women entering their first year of college reveals girls' school alumnae assess themselves stronger across the academic disciplines. Statistically significant are the following findings.

Ten percent more girls' school graduates rate their confidence in math and computer abilities high at the start of college compared to their peers from co-ed schools. That is, 47 percent of 6,552 graduates of 225 independent girls' schools, and 14,684 of their peers from 1,169 co-ed schools. 7 percent of women entering college from single-sex schools feel well-prepared in math, as compared to 36.6 percent from co-ed schools. A similar gap turned up when comparing computer skills: 35.8 percent of girls' school graduates report self-confidence versus 25.9 percent of their co-ed peers.

Girls' school graduates are three times more likely than their co-ed peers to consider pursuing a career in engineering; or 4.4 percent compared to 1.4 percent. More than 80 percent of girls' school graduates consider their academic performance highly successful compared to 75 percent of women from co-ed schools. On the intellectual front, 60 percent of women from girls' schools report self-confidence, compared to 54 percent from co-ed schools.

Nearly half of all women graduating from single-sex schools (or 44.6 percent) rate their public speaking ability high, compared to 38.5 percent of women graduates of co-ed schools. A similar differential exists for writing abilities: 64.2 percent girls' school graduates assess their writing as high, compared to 58.8 percent women graduates of co-ed schools.

Women graduates of single-sex independent schools spend more time studying or doing homework, talking with teachers outside of class, tutoring peers, and studying with others. Indeed, 53 percent of independent girls' school graduates study with other students, compared with 45 percent of their co-ed peers, and 63 percent spend 11 plus hours a week studying or doing homework compared with 42 percent of the co-ed. And 37 percent of girls' school alumnae spend 3 or more hours a week talking with teachers, compared to 30 percent among women from co-ed schools.

More girls' school graduates consider college a stepping stone to graduate school (71 percent versus 66 percent from co-ed schools) and 45 percent of women from single-sex schools (compared to 41 percent of their co-ed peers) choose a college in part for its record of alumnae gaining admission to graduate school.

Political engagement thrives in single-sex schools: 57.9 percent of girls' school graduates compared to 47.7 percent of their co-ed peers report they are more likely to keep current with the political scene and have political discussions in class. As the UCLA study points out, girls' schools graduates rate themselves more successful and engaged in precisely those areas in which male students have historically surpassed them - mathematics, computers, engineering, and politics. The findings may undermine opponents of girls' schools, who argue that single-sex education accentuates sex-based stereotypes and widens the gender gap.

Since the early 1990s, NCGS, a national girls' school advocacy group, has worked to document the value of girls' schools. Since the shift in title IX in 2006, 94 new single sex schools have been formed in the US. Two-thirds of them are girls' schools. "Single-gender education represents a valuable opportunity. It has well-documented results in terms of benefits and successful outcomes independent of high school variables. Our nation's girls are a national resource and they deserve the best we can offer them." said Meg Milne Moulton, Executive Director of NCGS.

| Diary Dates | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| April | Friday 30 | What, When & Why No. 4 |
| May | Wednesday 5 | Year 8 / 9 Netball grading, 1:00-3:00pm |
| | Wednesday 5 – Friday 7 | Active8 camp |
| | Monday 10 | Open Day / Night, 9:00-11:00am & 5:30-8:30pm |
| | Tuesday 11 – Thursday 13 | NAPLAN Testing |
| | Wednesday 12 | Open Netball Grading, 3.30pm |
| | Tuesday 18 | Principal's Tour, 9:15am |
| | Thursday 20 | Principal's Tour, 9:15am |
| | Friday 21 | Student Free Day / Staff T&D |
| | Wednesday 26 | Year 12 Music Solo Performance |
| | Thursday 27 | Casual Day |
| | Friday 28 | What, When & Why No. 5 |
| June | Tuesday 1 | Year 8 & 9 Immunisations |
| | Thursday 3 | Year 12 Drama Moderation, 7:00-9:00pm |
| | Wednesday 2 – Friday 4 | Year 10 SHIP camp |
| | Monday 7 | Whole School Assembly |
| | Wednesday 9 | Music Solo Performance Moderation |
| | Monday 14 | Queen's Birthday Holiday |
| | Friday 25 | What, When & Why No. 6 |
| | Wednesday 30 | Year 12 Retreat |
| July | Thursday 1 | Year 12 Retreat |
| | Friday 2 | Year 11 Reflection Day End of Term 2 – Reports distributed. Dismissal 3.15pm |

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 comprising of Dentists, Dental Therapists and Dental Assistants.

All preschool, primary and secondary students aged 18 years and under, 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 dependents 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 specific 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).