

What, When & Why

@ Mitcham Girls High School

No. 6, Friday 25 June 2010, Term 2

Mitcham Girls High School

From the Principal...

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

What a busy term this has been! Open Day, primary school visits, camps, NAPLAN tests, school tours, exams, Year 12 Retreat, Year 11 Reflection Day, MMAD DAY, preparing for the SACE, getting ready for the CIS accreditation process, and more! I am confident, however, that we have remained focused on our teaching and learning and our students have shown resilience, ability to adapt to change and common sense at all times.

As a school we are also coping with room changes due to the fact that we are refurbishing our labs and we had to relocate from the administration building.

The Science refurbishment is running according to plan and we are hopeful that the project will be finished by the end of August.

Work on the administration building has commenced. The Department has decided to replace the carpet, paint all offices and modify the air conditioning. We are all looking forward to returning to our offices and staffroom.

Leadership Assembly

- SRC Induction
- Leaders in Mathematics
- Sports Leaders
- Peer Leaders

Girls schools are well known for their leadership programs and our school is no exception. At Mitcham, students are always encouraged to embrace formal and informal leadership opportunities which in turn increases confidence and self esteem.

On Thursday 12 August, at 12:00pm parents are invited to attend our very special Leadership Assembly to congratulate our leaders and to present them to the school.

Extra Lessons for Year 12 Students

Once again, during the Term 2 holidays most Year 12 teachers will run extra lessons for the students. Please encourage your daughter not to miss out on these wonderful

opportunities that our teachers are providing. The timetable for this program will be published on our website.

Term 2 Reports

Year 8, 9 and 12 students will be issued with reports on Friday 2 July, at 3:15pm. Given that Year 10 and 11 students will be doing exams during the last week of Term 2, their reports will be issued on Friday 23 July.

Please be aware that we are unable to issue reports before 3:15pm on the last Friday of Term 2. Such requests create extra work and extra stress for all involved. We ask you to be considerate.

There will hardly be any office staff working during the holidays and, therefore, students who are not at school on the last day of term will need to wait until the beginning of Term 3 before they can receive their report.

Winner of What, When & Why No. 5 \$20 canteen voucher



Sarah Page (12.24)

What, When & Why No. 6

Please make sure you return the signed slip to Student Services to be in the running for a \$20 canteen voucher.

Antoinette Jones
Principal

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

Promoting Positive and Respectful Relationships for Safer School Communities

It is an unfortunate fact that harassment and bullying is a reality that exists within all schools. In Australia it has been estimated that at least 1 in 6 students are subjected to some form of harassment or bullying each week. Studies reveal that students who are victims of harassment and bullying have higher levels of stress, depression and illness.

'Cyber bullying' is bullying which uses e-technology as a means of victimising others. This includes the use of an Internet service or mobile technologies – such as e-mail, chat room discussion groups, instant messaging, web pages or SMS (text messaging) and social networking sites – with the intention of harming another person.

Social networking sites like *Facebook* have become the preferred means of communication for many young people as they provide a fast and effective way to communicate between groups; unfortunately not all of it is appropriate.

Facebook is being used increasingly as the vehicle to manipulate relationships, a forum to share secrets, to list friends and "rate" them, creating a hierarchy of friends, or "ignore" or reject others in the public domain of the World Wide Web. It is difficult for schools to monitor and happens almost exclusively out of school hours.

Girls at Mitcham are more likely to find out that they are excluded from a group via comments, messages, groups or anonymous forums on *Facebook* than through face to face confrontations.

The intensely public nature of this harassment and bullying has a powerful and negative effect on the victim. It damages the physical and emotional health of those involved and impacts on all aspects of life; self-esteem, relationships, participation and productivity.

The isolated nature of internet communication seems to make it easier for those involved to deliver vicious and cruel abuse and threats with a detachment that lacks any consideration of the consequences of their actions.

At Mitcham we are committed to ensuring all members of our school community are able to work and learn in a safe environment, which is free from all forms of harassment and bullying. We work actively to create and maintain a safe culture that is in keeping with our values and with legislative and professional obligations. Feel free to access the DECS Bullying and Harassment brochure http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/speced2/files/links/link_97419.pdf.

The school has clear measures in place to deal with all instances of harassment and bullying. These are linked to our Behaviour Management processes and outlined in the school diary.

The school also has 'Cyber-Safety' practices in place. The Information and Communication Technology Usage Agreement included in the school diary refers to the safe use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones.

To remind students of the criminal consequences of 'Cyber bullying' the Sturt Police Crime Prevention Unit has been invited to address Year 12 students on Tuesday 22 June 2010.

Similar sessions have been booked for Years 10 and 11 students as part of the Care Group program in weeks 1, 2, 4 and 5 of next term.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to make themselves familiar with the e-technologies available to their daughters. I can recommend Michael Carr-Gregg's book *Real Wired Child – What Parents need to know about kids online*, as an excellent resource.

More useful information can be found at:

<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au>

<http://www.netalert.gov.au>

<http://www.kidshelp.com.au>

<http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au>

As a school we will continue to work with individuals and groups to develop strategies for providing a safe learning space for your daughters.

Penny Tranter
Deputy Principal

New powers to deal with cyber bullying

- LAUREN NOVAK MARTINA SIMOS
- From: *The Advertiser*
- 25 August 2009, 12:00am

PRINCIPALS are making use of powers to suspend or exclude students who cyber bully peers outside school, but concerns remain some schools are not properly addressing new technologies in their bullying policies.

The Education Department gave principals more powers to crack down on bullying done via mobile phones and the internet earlier this year.

While exact numbers of suspensions or exclusions under the new rules are not being kept, Education Department Student Behaviour Management Policy advisor Greg Cox said "a number" of principals had contacted him about serious cases.

He said this was a "small percentage of the many who are likely to have used" the new powers. "We gave advice to our principals in March that they have the power to use the school disciplinary procedures, even if an event occurs off site and out of hours, if a kid comes to school on Monday, distressed because of a cyber bullying event on the weekend", said Mr Cox, who was part of a panel which took questions from parents at a DECS cyber bullying forum.

"There is one quite serious threat made over a weekend from a boy to his ex-girlfriend which we put in the hands of police. That boy was excluded."

Careers in the Health Area

The Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council is the organisation providing information about careers in this area.

There are several websites which give information about skill needs and careers in the community services and health sectors, for students, families and teachers. It is a major area of need and a growing career area.

Approximately 15,000 jobs are expected to open up in the next five years as a result of industry growth, together with replacing those people who move out of the work force.

This area needs people who are calm under pressure and those who are able to communicate well with people from all backgrounds and cultures. People can enter their careers at different levels and there are opportunities in the metropolitan and in regional areas.

For more information see websites:

www.cshisc.com.au

www.careersthatter.com.au

www.pathwaysthatter.com.au

Sue Howlett
SACE Manager

Achieving the SACE

To gain the SACE, students need to complete a number of compulsory subjects in conjunction with a range of free choice subjects.

Each subject or course completed earns 'credits' towards the SACE.

A minimum of 200 credits are required for students to gain the certificate. Ten credits are equal to one semester of study in a subject and 20 credits are equal to a full-year subject.

Students receive a grade from A to E for each subject. For **compulsory subjects students need to achieve a C grade or better.**

The compulsory subjects in the SACE are:

- **Personal Learning Plan (PLP)** – completed in Year 10
- **English or English as a Second Language** – full year in Year 11
- **Mathematics** – minimum of 1 semester in Year 11
- **Research Project** – completed in Year 11 (in 2010 this subject is called Information Literacy)
- **Other Stage 2 subjects** totalling at least 60 credits.

The remaining 90 credits can be gained through additional Stage 1 or Stage 2 subjects or their equivalent, including VET subjects.

In order to support students to complete the compulsory SACE requirements, those who have not met the requirements of an A – C grade in the **Personal Learning Plan** and/or **Mathematics** subjects at the end of Semester 1 will be re-enrolled in the subject in Semester 2, 2010.

Students who do not meet the **minimum requirements of a C grade** in a full year of English or ESL in 2010 will be re-enrolled in the subject at Stage 1 level next year.

Students who have not met the **minimum requirements of a C grade** in Information Literacy this semester will be offered one of the following options:

- Negotiate to re-enrol in Information Literacy in Semester 2 to complete their current project
- Negotiate with their current Information Literacy teacher to work independently to finish their project and present it for marking next semester
- Re-enrol in the Research Project in Semester 1 of Stage 2 (2011) to complete work started this year **or** complete a new Research Project.

Students who do complete Stage 1 **Information Literacy** successfully will be able to convert their A - C school grade to a SACE result for the **Research Project** in 2011.

Students who are identified as needing to be re-enrolled in one of the above subjects in Semester 2 will be contacted. Please be aware that this may have an impact on Semester 2 subject choices and future options.

Penny Tranter
Deputy Principal, Senior School

Yr 12 Drama Moderated Performance Grimm Tales

This production of Grimm Tales was a collection of seven tales adapted by Carol Ann Duffy and dramatized by Tim Supple from the original tales of the Brothers Grimm. These tales were dark cautionary tales to educate young children and adults in the folly of: disobedience to their elders, vanity, cruelty, jealousy, greed, and stupidity. These tales were to warn the viewer of the dreadful outcomes that could befall them if they chose not to heed these warnings and continued to follow their misguided ways. The protagonists were innocent young children preyed upon by uncaring, cold adults and jealous sisters. They were people who showed unconditional love for others, love that can go to any lengths to remain true and constant and love that remained even beyond the grave.

Our production incorporated aspects of physical theatre and the idea of transformation in an anti-realistic genre. The human form transformed into trees, houses, animals and back to humans in the one tale. The music (Jen Morris), lighting (Jordyn Pilcher), set (Kelly Dawes) and costume (Elena Nees) together created an atmosphere of dread, fear and cruelty. The talented cast showed their discipline and versatility through their convincing characterisations of well known fairy tale characters and their physicality as trees, birds and cottages. Meghan McLean as the Wolf preying on Anna Schultz as Little Red Cap had the audience squirming, while Bianca Payne, Emma Phillipson and Phoebe Murray had them laughing in *Clever Hans* as did Shannon Ryan-Tilley in *The Golden Goose*. Aspasia Kalamaris and Laura Evans were delightfully evil as the Wicked Queen in *Snow White* and the Stepmother and the Witch in *Hansel and Gretel*. Contrasting were the 'good' characters, Tahlia Littlewood as a vengeful Snow White, Jaz Gregory as Ashputtel and Ronnie Motley as Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*. Sam Muir and Vrinda Dick portrayed everlasting true love in *The Lady and the Lion* while Lucy Kautsky was an extremely nasty ugly sister. The production was ably run by Stage Manager, Stevie Carlson.

The performance was stunning and it was a pleasure to see that all the hard work and weekends in rehearsal was more than worth it as the whole concept came together.

Alison Rosenthal
Arts Coordinator



SCIENCE NEWS

SA Space School

Congratulations to Amy Robertson who has been selected to attend the SA Space School on Monday 5 July – Wednesday 7 July 2010.

She will be accommodated at the RAH Residential Wing and will:

- Take part in science investigations including building and launching model rockets
- Attend a public lecture as special guests where former NASA astronaut **Scott Parazynski** gives a presentation
- Perform experiments and watch demonstrations in the University of Adelaide Physics Laboratories
- Visit the Defence Science & Technology Organisation
- Hear inspiring talks about careers in space science, physics, engineering, life sciences and more
- Visit the RAAF Air Base at Edinburgh
- Visit the Planetarium at the University of SA
- Visit PIPEHENGE
- Have a great time!

Technology Careers Evening

As part of the *2010 National Science Week*, the Technology Industry Association is hosting the annual *Technology Careers Evening* for school students (any age group), parents and teachers. This event will showcase the many benefits of a career in the technology industry as well as the study pathways into University and TAFE.

Wednesday, 18 August 2010

A career exploration evening for school students (all year levels), their parents, teachers and career counsellors

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm.
Location: **Ridley Centre, Wayville Showgrounds**
Cost: No Charge - but bookings are essential

To attend book online by clicking [here](#).
To download the flyer, please click [here](#).

Helen Marussinszky
Science Coordinator

Years 8, 9 and 10 Science Students

The Royal Australian Chemical Institute conducts a Chemistry Quiz every year. It is an International Quiz and is open to all Science students from Years 8 to 12. You compete against students in your own year level. It costs \$5.00 to enter.

Students from our school have performed really well in the past. If you are interested please let your Science teacher know.

Helen Marussinszky
Science Coordinator

Year 12 Retreat News

Students are in the final stages of preparation for this significant part of the Year 12 program which will take place on Wednesday and Thursday of Week 11.

We are very much looking forward to seeing the family members of our students at the Dinner, together with those teachers who are able to attend. There will be a report to the school community in Term 3.

Sue Howlett
SACE Manager

Congratulations !

Congratulations to Samantha Rufnak (9.16) who competed last weekend in the St. John Metro South Region First Aid Competition. Samantha, along with her peers, will now participate in the State First Aid Championships being held on 1 October 2010 to compete for the right to represent South Australia in the National Cadet First Aid Championships in Brisbane, January 2011.

Another of Samantha's goals is to become a Senior Cadet Corporal and in a few months will be attending the course to achieve her goal.



Year 10 SHIP Camp – Kangaroo Island

The Year 10 SHIP class gives students the opportunity to be challenged in an exciting and educational way. A great example of this is the Kangaroo Island camp where, this year, Year 10 SHIP students had the advantage of going on a three day camp to Kangaroo Island to do an interdisciplinary study. For the 2010 students this camp took place in Week 7, Term 2.

Along with the advantages of an exciting camp also came the disadvantages such as having to be at school at the bone-chilling hour of 6:15am on the Wednesday morning. With all of our excitement bubbling over no-one managed to sleep on the two and a half hour bus trip to the ferry. After a relatively calm trip on the ferry we were all starting to notice our lack of sleep as we set foot on the solid ground of Kangaroo Island. With two loyal bus drivers, who drove us around for three days, we were soon settled into our accommodation at the Island Court Holiday units.

A lot of organisation went into our camp, on the part of the teachers, students and bus drivers. In the lessons leading up to our camp we organised apartment groups and menus for the three days. It was a big responsibility but also a great group exercise to fend for ourselves and cook for our friends; it was also a great challenge to cater for everyone's needs.

We spent our time on the island travelling on the buses from site to site, trying to absorb the rich history and geology of our surroundings. But don't get the idea that we were just having fun! Our wonderful English teacher, Ms Ivey, had organised a decent sized booklet for us to complete during the camp. Therefore, much of our time was spent furiously scribbling down information whilst trying to keep up with our tour guides.

Some of the activities we participated in were: climbing under and over Remarkable Rocks, sitting at the desks of the old Wisanger School, tasting honey and cheese at the Bee Hive and Island Pure Sheep Dairy, running along the boardwalks at Admiral's Arch while studying the seals and winding our way through some magnificent old museums. We explored places from the Kingscote Cemetery to the Prospect Hill lookout.

Overall we had a wonderful time and we learnt a number of things which we are now putting to use in a group assignment about the features and history of Kangaroo Island. It was a great adventure that was made possible for us by our wonderful teachers and hopefully this camp will keep taking place for years to come for others to experience the wonders of Kangaroo Island.

Kiara Wanner
Year 10 SHIP class



Public Speaking

Public speaking is rated as many people's most feared activity, but every year many South Australian students take part in public speaking competitions.

Rose Harvey 9.21, Nibir Chowdhury 9.21, Meg Roddy 11.38 and I were able to participate in the *Rostrum Voice of Youth* Competition. We were given a choice of topics such as "A Modern Curse" and "The Truth Hurts" and had to present a prepared speech. The real test came with the impromptu speeches where we were given fifteen minutes to prepare a four minute speech. We all learnt a lot from the experience.

I was lucky enough to participate in the *Plain English Speaking Award* (PESA). PESA allowed free choice of topics, however the speech had to be on an issue of importance to you. I spoke about the objectification of women and its consequences, but there were many interesting and varied choices by other competitors.

The public speaking competitions were a great opportunity to learn and gain confidence. Thank you to Ms Bamford for coaching and I would encourage all students next year to have a go.



Saffron Ronson 11.31

News from your Christian Pastoral Support Worker!

Everyday in my role your daughters chat to me about their highs and lows, their wonderful families and the difficulties they experience whilst growing up into a young woman. I also get calls from parents who are looking for the best way to support their daughter during this time. Recently I have been building my collection of books for students' and parents' use. I would like to offer parents the opportunity to borrow these books from me if they would like to. For this issue of *What, When & Why* I would like to draw your attention to the two following books.

"The Dirt on Breaking Up"

by Hayley DiMarco & Justin Lookadoo

This is a great manual on how to survive a romantic relationship break up in your teens. It has some really practical tips and will help your daughter to keep a positive perspective of the experience. I recommend parents to read this before giving to their daughter to ensure it aligns with their own values on the subject.

"Queen Bees & Wannabes" by Rosalind Wiseman

When in high school, your daughters' friendships are one of the most important aspects of her life but also the area that can cause her a lot of heartache. In this book, the writer looks at the different roles that girls play in friendship groups and how they interact with each other. The book also contains useful tips and examples to help you and your daughter through ever-changing friendship groups.

Throughout the next few *What, When & Whys* I will be giving you details of some more books that have helped parents and I to support their daughter, and that I believe will assist many parents. I am at the school Monday - Thursday 10:30-3:30 if you would like to contact me to discuss any of these issues or to organise the loan of a book. If these hours do not work for you, you can email me at claire.cutting@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au

Claire Cutting
Christian Pastoral Support Worker

Entertainment Books

Outstanding Entertainment Books need to be either purchased or returned to the Finance Office **as soon as possible**. Invoices have been forwarded to families with outstanding books.

Sue King
Finance Officer

MMAD Day

At the start of the year, the Year 10 Care Group teachers and I brainstormed some ideas which we could incorporate into the Year 10 Care Group Program. We knew we wanted to do something that involved local and global communities. From that initial discussion MMAD Day was born. MMAD stands for Mitcham Makes a Difference, and it was a chance for Year 10s and their teachers to be involved in local and global organisations which help in the community.

During the course of Terms 1 and 2, Care Groups decided which organisations they wanted to support and devised ways in which they could raise awareness and funds for those organisations.

Each Care Group liaised with charities and worked in teams to develop stalls and displays which not only promoted their charity and the work they do, but also raised money for the causes they were interested in.

Stalls included goods, charity merchandise, games, activities, face painting, displays, food, drinks, animals and competitions. We even had a haunted classroom. Students also rattled tins in the school and community to raise funds through the collection of donations.

Care Groups raised over \$1,300 and those funds were distributed amongst a number of charities and organisations including:

- The Breast Cancer Association
- Camp Quality
- Childhood Cancer Research
- Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Make a Wish Foundation
- Oxfam
- RSPCA
- Salvation Army
- Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation
- World Wildlife Fund

I would like to thank all of the Year 10 students for their enthusiastic participation in a really successful day. It was also great to see all other students so keen to be involved in the activities we had on the day and donating their money to worthy causes. The day would not have been as successful if Care Group teachers weren't so hard working and dedicated to the day. I would also like to thank parents who contributed to the day through the donation of goods, services and/or money.

Tony Sims
Assistant Principal



Diary Dates		
June	Wednesday 30	Year 12 Retreat
July	Thursday 1	Year 12 Retreat
	Friday 2	Year 11 Reflection Day
	Friday 2	End of Term 2 – Years 8, 9 & 12 reports distributed Dismissal 3:15pm
	Monday 19	Semester 2 commences
	Monday 19	Year 11 Cyber Bullying 12:00pm
	Friday 23	Year 10 / 11 Reports go home
	Monday 26	Year 11 Cyber Bullying 12:00pm
August	Monday 2 – Friday 6	Year 12 Mid-Year Exams
	Monday 2	Governing Council 7:00pm
	Tuesday 3	SACE Info night
	Friday 6	WWW Home
	Monday 9	Year 10 Cyber Bullying 12:00pm
	Monday 9	Zone Sport Finals
	Monday 16	Year 10 Cyber Bullying 12:00pm
	Monday 16 – Friday 20	Science Week
	Wednesday 18	Years 10 / 11 Course Counselling Evening
	Thursday 19	Years 10 / 11 Course Counselling Day
	Tuesday 24	Year 12 Drama Individual Study Moderation 4:00pm
	Friday 27	WWW Home
	Monday 30	Zone Sport starts
September	Wednesday 1	Year 12 Solo Performance
	Thursday 2 – Monday 6	Ski Trip departs Thursday pm and returns Monday am
	Friday 3	School Closure Day (Show Day)
	Monday 6	Student Free Day
	Monday 6	Governing Council 7:00pm
	Tuesday 7 – Wednesday 8	Year 10 Aquatics
	Wednesday 8	Music Solo Performance Moderation
	Tuesday 14	Year 12 Dance Moderation 6:30-8:30pm
	Wednesday 15	Year 12 Dance Moderation 7:00-9:00pm
	Friday 17	WWW Home
	Friday 24	End of Term 3 – Reports distributed Dismissal 3:15pm