

What, When & Why

@ Mitcham Girls High School

No 6, Thursday 4 June, Term 2, 2009

Mitcham Girls High School

From the Principal...

Council of International Schools (CIS) Accreditation - Preparatory Visit

Last week, two representatives from CIS spent four days in the school looking at our processes to assess whether the school has the capacity to work towards the accreditation process. They were certainly impressed with what they saw: documentation of curriculum, policies, leadership opportunities for girls, happy students, strong leadership, purposeful teaching and learning, etc. They have identified areas that need improving, for example, staff appraisal, processes we must put in place for managing major critical incidents and the need to put more money into IT. Once a written comprehensive report is provided by CIS, I will be in a position to report fully on the outcome of the visit. They recommend that the school be granted candidacy status which means we have about 18 months to conduct a self review on all aspects of school life before the team returns to assess the school.

Use of the internet

As parents and teachers we are all aware that young people spend a lot of time participating in online communications activities, including messaging or chatting online, email and visiting social websites.

Is this practice good, bad, dangerous, helpful, useful?

The Alliance of Girls Schools has appointed a young woman to summarise relevant research that has taken place over the last four years around the use of online communications. In each of the newsletters, I will publish one or more of these summaries so that as parents and teachers we can remain informed about these issues. Here is the first summary and two more are included on page 3:

Internet use and social networking by young people in Australia

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) commissioned a study into the use of electronic media and communications technologies by young people. The research was conducted in 2007 using a representative sample of Australian families with young people aged 8-17 years.

A series of short reports were developed from the research to provide detailed analysis of particular topics. In this report it was found that:

- 91% of Australian family households with young people aged 8-17 years had the internet and 76% had broadband
- Boys and girls spent an average of one hour and 17 minutes online per day, ranging from an average of 30 minutes per day for 8-11 year olds to 2 hours and 24 minutes for 15-17 year olds
- 67% of time spent online by young people was at home
- 72% of time spent online by young people was when they were alone
- Social networking and other related online communication activities comprised 64% of young people's total internet time
- More girls than boys messaged or chatted online, visited social networking sites and used email
- More boys than girls played with other players online
- 42% of 8-17 years olds had their own material online and 34% had their own profile
- Many parents were not aware that their child had downloaded or watched video from the internet

The authors concluded that 'the internet, social networking services and other online communication activities such as messaging, playing games with other players online and emailing were important for young Australians in the sample. They were especially important for young people aged 15-17 years'.

Australian Communications and Media Authority. (2008). *Internet use and social networking by young people*. Retrieved March 30, 2009, from ACMA website: www.acma.gov.au/mediareports

The above was also confirmed by an American Study which also concluded that "the use of social media is central to many teenagers' lives and more teenagers 'than ever are treating [the internet] as a venue for social interaction – a place where they can share creations, tell stories, and interact with others'.

Lenhart, A., Madden, M., Rankin Macgill, A., & Smith, A. (2007). *Teens and Social Media*. Retrieved April 19, 2009, from Pew Internet & American Life Project website: <http://www.pewinternet.org/>

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SRC News

The SRC has been involved in several projects and initiatives this term. Diana Gomez, Raissa Katembwe and Kristy Davies (pictured right) attended the Global Leadership Convention on Tuesday 26 May in order to further develop their leadership skills to implement the 40 Hour famine. There will be more news soon from the girls on this very worthwhile activity.



Gemma Mickan (pictured left) recently won the prize for the best design for the redecoration of the student toilets.

Students have also been involved in several workshops with Youth workers from the Mitcham Council who surveyed the group's opinions regarding desired youth initiatives in the Mitcham area.

A very successful casual day was held on Thursday 28 June, with students raising over nine hundred dollars towards the Sunrise Children's Village in Cambodia.

Sharyn Clarke

New Beginnings Ahead for the Christian Pastoral Support Program at Mitcham Girls High School!

The CPSW program at MGHS is currently undergoing some new beginnings in more ways than one.

I (Paula) will (sadly!) be retiring from the position of CPSW (formerly Chaplain) at MGHS at the end of this term to begin some new challenges, such as being a mum, and running a community house for homeless young people

I have very much loved my time at MGHS and I know that even though I will not formally be working in the school anymore, I will continue to know that I am a part of this wonderful community. As Ms. Jones would say, I well and truly feel like I am now, and always will be a 'Mitcham Girl!' I am looking forward to spending the end of this term doing some final catch ups, some celebrating, some 'remembering' and collecting advice on raising children!

Stay tuned for exciting news about new beginnings in Semester 2 in the CPSW program at MGHS!

Paula Love
Christian Pastoral Support Worker

Science News

Zoo Night Safari

The Year 9 SHIP class were lucky to be the first secondary class to stay overnight in tents and enjoy a night safari.

Engineering Challenge

The Year 10 SHIP class enjoyed the challenge to solve problems and work in teams against other schools. Great effort girls representing Mitcham!

Oliphant science

All Year 8 & 9 students have participated in science investigations. This has been a wonderful opportunity for them to enjoy different aspects of science including making models, photography, posters, essays, games & multimedia.

The teachers will now enter the best pieces into the state competition. Good Luck girls!

More Competitions!

Would you like to enter more competitions? You could win great prizes!

Please talk to your science teacher about the following:
Science Poetry Competition

National Youth Ambassador: essay competition about improving your mind

Storyboard Competition: making a TV ad about water conservation,

Practical Investigation Awards: do your own practical!

Helen Marussinszky
Science Coordinator

Teenage girls and mobile phones

This article explored how the mobile phone is a 'technology of contradiction, both used in the development of a sense of autonomy and identity while simultaneously being a potential tool of social control' for adolescents. An analysis of the use of mobile phones (or cellular phones as they are called in this American study) by teenage girls incorporated the idealisation of use presented in advertising images and the actual experiences of teenage girls.

An analysis of 150 advertising images that promoted mobile phones was undertaken. Then face-to-face interviews with 11 girls aged 14-17 years were conducted. Discourses surrounding teenage girls and mobile phones were also explored. Discourses were defined as 'practices that systematically form the objects of which they speak'.

Three central but conflicting discourses were found:

- a) The media discourse of technology consumption for image and fun
- b) The parental discourse of the public sphere as a place of danger and threat
- c) The youth culture discourse of self-determination and sociability

The mobile phone was found to exist at the intersection of these competing discourses of independence, safety and femininity. The teenage girls interviewed in the study desired friendship, style and individuality from their mobile phone usage, and this was reflected in the advertising images. However, the freedom of these girls to 'go out' was restricted for safety reasons; 'a safety that the cellular phone could potentially mediate'. Themes of safety and threat were not seen in advertising images. Each young woman 'believed that the idea that the public world was a dangerous place for teenage girls was legitimate. In turn, acting in a way that reflected recognition of this danger was closely aligned with being a good and respectful daughter'.

Girls also used their mobile phones in resistive ways by refusing to answer their parents' calls or distorting the information given to parents via their mobile phones. 'Nevertheless, the girls' deviations never varied far from what would be acceptable within traditional femininity'.

It was concluded that the mobile phone 'can be seen to be contrasted in multiple and often contradictory ways by different groups and interests... [the mobile phone] represents both the desire for independence and the risks that this desire incurs'. 'As such the cellular phone can be seen to function as a "technology of the self"'.

Campbell, R. (2006). Teenage Girls and Cellular Phone: Discourses of Independence, Safety and 'Rebellion'. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 9(2), 195-212.

Use of information and communication technology and perceived health in adolescence

This study explored how an intensive use of mobile phones and the internet could be associated with problems of perceived health in 12-18 year old Finnish adolescents. 7282 Finnish adolescents participated by filling in a questionnaire.

The following results were found:

- Girls were more frequent users of mobile phones and used mobile phones more intensively than boys
- Among girls, intensive mobile phones usage was significantly associated with poor perceived health through deteriorated sleeping habits and waking-time tiredness
- Among boys intense computer usage, including digital game playing and internet surfing was associated with poor perceived health

The researchers concluded that 'Boys used ICT more for exploring and playing, and girls for communication. Socialisation and psycho physiological differences between genders may explain boys' preferences for digital game playing and internet surfing, and girls' preferences for mobile phone communication'. The direct link between intensive mobile phone usage and girls' poor perceived health in the data suggests that this technology 'might entail elevated risks for girls during the sensitive period of adolescence'.

Punamaki, R., Wallenius, M., Nygard, C., Saarni, L. & Rimpela, A. (2007). Use of information and communication technology (ICT) and perceived health in adolescence: The role of sleeping habits and waking-time tiredness. *Journal of Adolescence*, 30(1), 569-585.



DON'T GO AND SEE HARRY POTTER ON YOUR OWN!!!

See the movie with us and help raise money for the school's Quadrangle Redevelopment Project

When: Thursday 23 July 2009 (Movie starts at 6:30pm)

Where: Wallis Cinema Mitcham

What: Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

Tickets: On sale from Finance Office Now!!!
Bring your money to school or ring 8272 8233 and pay over the phone.

Cost: \$13.00 per person (Adults and Students)

Once again we will have a *Mystery Door Prize*

Hope you can make this event as it is Term 3's major fundraiser.

Sports News

School sport for Term 2 and 3 is underway again, with Mitcham entering 2 Soccer teams and 4 Netball teams into the after school sport competition. Our Soccer teams are into their 3rd week of competitions, with the Netballers in their 2nd. The results from these rounds are as follows:

ROUND 1:

Year 8/9 Soccer:
Mitcham BYE

Open Soccer:
Mitcham def Glenunga 6-3

ROUND 2:

Year 8/9 Soccer:
Mitcham def Sunrise 4-0

Open Soccer:
Mitcham def Seaview 7-0

Netball ROUND 1:

Paula Love's Year 9 team:
St John's 4 def Mitcham 1 19-18

Ms Murrell's Year 8/9 Team:
Mitcham 2 def St Mary's 4 26-19

Mrs Raggatt's Year 8 Team:
Mitcham 3 def Brighton 5 17-16

Ms Beauchesne and Ms Tsoukalas' Open Team:
Sunrise def Mitcham 38-23

Congratulations to all teams on their efforts so far, keep up the good work.

Caitlin Shooter
Sports Assistant

HOUSE SPORT

The Year 8 and 12 House Sport competition is complete for this term. In the Year 8 competition, Fraser finished 1st overall, with Spence a close 2nd and Mitchell in 3rd. In the Year 12 competition, Fraser also finished on top, with Mitchell in 2nd and Spence in 3rd. Congratulations to all girls who competed and all House Captains for their organisational skills. The Year 9s and 10/11s will now battle it out in their competitions.

To Parents & Caregivers with Aboriginal Students in Year 10, 11 & 12

A SACE Information Session will be Held

Date: Wednesday 17 June

Time: 5:00 – 7:00pm

(Dinner included at the John Reynell Restaurant, within TAFE)

Venue: Noarlunga TAFE, Aboriginal Education Sector

This will cover:

- ✓ any information you may want to know about SACE
- ✓ what questions to ask your school on your child's SACE pattern
 - ✓ what is SACE

You will need to register through your
Aboriginal Community Education Officer
at your school as bookings are essential due to a limit of 20 places

RSVP by 12 June 2009

Football Clinic

This term Mr Finos' Year 8s, Ms Raggatt's Year 8s and 9s and Ms Alston's Year 10 fitness classes have taken part in 3 weeks of Football Clinics with Girl Power and 3 weeks with the SANFL. They also had the chance to meet two Port Power Football Players.

These clinics gave our students the chance to show how good girls can be at Football. The girls took part in hand passing drills, kicking drills and also had the chance to use the tackling bags.

Overall, the clinic gave some girls the opportunity to kick a football for the first time, or gave others a chance to touch up on their skills.



Caitlin Shooter
Sports Assistant

Inline Hockey

Mrs Alston's Year 10 Recreational PE class have enjoyed 4 weeks of Inline Hockey sessions. The first session gave the girls a chance to learn the basics of skating, which turned out to be a challenging feat for some. Some girls had never even seen skates before, let alone tried to skate to the other end of the gym. However, through determination and encouragement the girls quickly learnt the skill.

Over the next 3 sessions the girls learnt the rules of Inline Hockey and by the final session all girls were playing games, with fewer falls as the sessions progressed. And for those few girls who struggled to stand up in the first session, by the final session it was impossible to get them to stop. The progression of the girls was sensational and they should be very proud of their efforts.

Due to high demand Mrs Alston's Year 10 Fitness class will begin Inline Hockey sessions next week.



Caitlin Shooter Sports Assistant



Diary Dates

June	Thursday 4	What, When & Why No 6 Home
	Monday 8	Queen's Birthday Holiday
	Tuesday 9	Year 8 Assembly
	Wednesday 10	Year 9 Assembly
		SRC Meeting – Mixed
	Monday 15	Senior School Assembly
		Whole School Assembly
		Fundraising Meeting 6:00pm
		Governing Council Meeting 7:00pm
	Wednesday 17	SRC Meeting – Junior
	Friday 19	Year 12 Dance Technique Exam 9:00am PAC
	Monday 22	Senior School Assembly
		Middle School Student-run Assembly Lesson 4
	Tuesday 23	Year 8 Assembly
	Physical Resources Meeting 9:00am	
	Finance Meeting 4:00pm	
	Semester 1 Dance/Music Night 7:00pm	
Wednesday 24	Year 9 Assembly	
	SRC Meeting – Senior	
Thursday 25	What, When & Why No 7 Home	
Monday 29 June – Friday 3 July	Year 10 & 11 Exam Week	
Monday 29	Senior School Assembly	
July	Friday 3	Semester 1 Ends
		Year 11 Reflection Day
		Reports Distributed at 3:10pm
		End of Term 2

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 6*

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Any comments?

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