

What, When & Why

@ Mitcham Girls High School

No 1, Friday 25 February, Term 1 2011

From the Principal...

Dear Mitcham Families,

By now all families should have received, through the post, a package which contained a Calendar of Events, a letter from me, a list of MGHHS teachers and a Student Personal Data sheet.

If you have not received it, it is possible that we do not have your current address. Please send us a letter/note signed by you asking us to change your address and we will send the package to you.

It is extremely important that you send back the Student Personal Data sheet (included in the package) as soon as possible so that we can make all the necessary changes. We also aim to develop a database with the email addresses of all families so that we can at least remind you of important events. Teachers will also be able to keep in touch with you if they have any concerns about the progress of your daughter.

As a school, we are extremely busy preparing for the CIS (Council of International Schools) visit which will take place the week beginning March 5th. A team of 10 people will be in the school for five days observing how we do things and the processes we follow for all facets of school life using world standards as their criteria. At the end of the visit they will present the school with a list of commendations (things we do well) and a list of recommendations (things we need to improve on). We are then given eighteen months to attend to their recommendations which will hopefully lead to an even better school.

We are proud of our students!

- Two weeks ago I had the privilege of attending the Year 12 Merit Ceremony at Government House where three of our students were presented with Merit certificates for achieving perfect scores in one or more subjects at Year 12. We congratulate Laura Evans, Kimberley Combes and Angela Stampton on their successes. It is worth mentioning that Laura Evans not only gained a perfect score in Modern History, she also won the Annie Montgomerie Martin Prize and Medal for

being the top student in the State – a sensational result.

Furthermore, Laura Evans was one of 9,000 students who applied to attend the New York University in Abu Dhabi. Three hundred students, including Laura, were chosen to attend a “candidate weekend” in the United Arab Emirates (all expenses paid) before the final 150 students are chosen for admission into the University. We certainly hope that Laura will gain admission to such a prestigious University.



Angela Stampton, Kimberley Combes,
Laura Evans

- Bryanna Murfitt went to Italy on an exchange at the end of the year and was offered a scholarship to study in Italy for one year. Schools in Italy don't normally offer scholarships, but they were so impressed with Brie that they decided their own students would benefit by having Brie in their school for a year.



- Amy Robertson attended the Australian Space School during the holidays and was offered a scholarship to travel to the United States with the Australian Space School. We are very proud of Amy, especially in light of the fact that she was the only student from a public school to be awarded such an exciting opportunity.

Antoinette Jones
Principal

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CHRISTIAN PASTORAL SUPPORT WORKER (CPSW)



Hi, my name is Bek Brown and I am the new Christian Pastoral Support Worker at Mitcham Girls High. As the school's new CPSW I am here to support and care for staff, students and families of MGHS in whatever way I can - this may be by lending a listening ear, through pastoral care or in more practical ways.

In co-operation with the rest of the staff at MGHS I will work to develop services, programs and strategies that help to meet the needs of the students at MGHS. I will be at school on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays and I can be contacted either through the front office or my email: rebekah.brown@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au

Just a little bit about myself... I am married with two small children and four chickens. I love cooking, reading & travelling and I especially love working with young people.

I really look forward to getting to know the community at Mitcham Girls and I hope that you will get to know me better in the coming months. If you have any concerns, questions or just want to have a chat, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Bek Brown
CPSW

SACE DAY 2011

This year the Stage 2 students met at Rumours Café, part of the Adelaide University complex, a challenge in itself for some students in terms of finding it. For the class of 2011 we arranged an introductory visit to the State Library, particularly useful for students who are completing the Research Project and the other significant research tasks they will be doing. For some students it was a familiar location, but there were many for whom it was a first visit. All students were very taken with the beautiful ambiance of the Mortlock Library.

Former students Jess Nash, Amya Cunningham, Georgia Stanley, Belinda Zanello and Sarah Bennett shared their year 12 experiences (both good and bad) and provided a lot of useful insights to help students manage this year and supported the information provided by Ms Hirsch-Brown about making good use of the support available for the girls. It is always interesting to catch up with our students to see what interesting futures they are making for themselves. The highlight of the day was a presentation by Greg Eather from the Adelaide Tuition Centre who helped students work on strategies to manage the complex lives they lead and to do so while being organised and successful in their study.

We thank Rebekah, our new Christian Pastoral Support Worker for liaising with the Parish Council who also supported the day with morning tea for the students and the care group teachers who assisted throughout.

Sue Howlett
Stage 2 Manager

MENTORING PROGRAM

Mitcham Girls High School has a well established mentoring program which is supported by a large number of teachers and support staff.

Mentoring is about building a relationship between an older, wiser more experienced person and a younger person who is still learning about how the world operates. We have a number of teachers who are willing to 'go the extra mile' and take a special interest in a young person with the aim to advocate, guide and support the young person to help build their self confidence, resilience and success. Some young people miss having a significant adult role model (other than their mums and dads).

If your daughter is experiencing issues around attendance, learning or establishing and maintaining friendships; and if she is willing to be guided by a mentor, then please make contact with Ms Hirsch-Brown, counsellor, on 8272 8233 or encourage your daughter to come and see me.

Gabi Hirsch-Brown
Counsellor

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1911-2011

This March the world will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day.

Mitcham Girls High School 2011 Celebrations for International Women's Day will include a public photographic exhibition to celebrate 100 years of women inspiring the world.

To help create the exhibition we are launching a photographic competition. Students are invited to submit a photo of a woman who is inspirational to them. (Photos can be colour or black & white and can be scanned or saved in digital format).

We also want to know what it is about the women that is inspirational (in 150 words or less).

All photos submitted will be included in a digital photographic exhibition. 100 of the best photographs will be printed and mount to be displayed in conjunction with award-winning Adelaide photographer, Jennie Groom, who will also showcase her exhibition 'Women@Work' to be launched at Mitcham on 8 March for International Women's Day.

Students will be invited to see the exhibition **100 Years, 100 Women, 100 Voices** throughout the day; however, it will be "officially" opened that afternoon 8 March at 3.30pm Parents and members of the public will also be invited.

Keep that date free.

More information will be available soon.

Penny Tranter

Deputy Principal

On behalf of the International Women's Day Committee

SCHOOL PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

Mitcham Girls High School is a professional, progressive learning community dedicated to providing outstanding educational opportunities for girls. Our goal is to meet the needs of all of our students and to support them to achieve their potential and make a positive contribution to the world.

For any organisation to be successful we rely on all members of the team working together to support procedures.

Our effectiveness depends on staff, parents/caregivers and students following current procedures and we thank parents and caregivers and look forward to your ongoing support in these matters.

All major School Policies and Procedures are outlined in the Student Diary. The following is a brief outline of some of these.

Diaries:

Please look through your daughter's diary and sign it on a weekly basis. You will be able to monitor your daughter's progress and homework obligations through this diary. The school diary is the major method of communication between the student, the school and the home and the inclusion of non-school related material is not appropriate. The diary is a public document, which can be viewed by teachers upon request and as such should be kept in an appropriate state.

SCHOOL PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

(cont'd)

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.

Students and parents/caregivers are informed of these requirements on enrolment and expected to support it. The School Uniform is outlined in the Student Diary. Photographs of acceptable combinations of the uniform and appropriate shoe wear are available on the school website.

Please note: Only three styles of shoes are acceptable, Black lace up leather (or equivalent) school shoes, T-Bar or Mary Jane shoes with Velcro or buckle straps. Elastic straps are not acceptable.

All items, including shoes, are available from the school Uniform Shop. The Uniform Shop at Mitcham Girls High School is open from 8:00am – 1.30pm each Thursday during school term.

Uniforms are also available for purchase from 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday at Uniform Management Services:

109 Rundle Street
Kent Town SA 5067
Tel: 08 8363 5255

Methods of Payment: Cash, Cheque, Visa or MasterCard.

Jewellery is not part of the Dress Code. A discrete, inconspicuous symbol of religion may be acceptable. Girls will be asked to remove jewellery or risk having it confiscated.

The wearing of makeup and/or nail polish is also not acceptable at school.

Students who do not adhere to the school Dress Code will have the option of borrowing an item of clothing from Student Services.

Incidents of non-compliance will be dealt with through the Behaviour Management process.

Public Transport Policy:

With so many of our girls travelling distances to and from school we do have the occasional complaint about behaviour on buses. Girls travelling to and from school are expected to follow these guidelines:

- Follow the public transport code of conduct
- Consider the rights of all passengers
- Demonstrate appropriate manners and behaviour
- Keep bags under seats or on laps.

Senior girls are appointed as bus monitors and will report inappropriate behaviour to Year Level Managers who will deal with it through the Behaviour Management process.

Student Absence

Any absence from school impacts on learning – students who miss school are often disadvantaged – educationally and socially.

Difficulties experienced can range from gaps in knowledge and continuity to missing out on important information, to social isolation as friendships break down.

To support your daughter's success we ask you aim to make appointments out of school hours wherever possible and to encourage regular attendance.

SCHOOL PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

(cont'd)

If your daughter is showing signs of being unwell in the morning it is expected that she will remain at home. The school does not have the facilities to look after girls who are sick and parents will be contacted to collect girls who report to the sick room during the day.

If your daughter is going to be absent please notify the school by a phone call before 9.30am. If an explanation has not been received by 11.30am a message will be sent, via SMS, to those parents/caregivers who have registered their mobile phone number with the school. The absence will also require a written note of explanation on the next day of attendance.

Late Arrivals

Students who arrive late to school are required to sign in at Student Services on their arrival. Persistent late arrivals will incur a community service penalty.

Again we ask for your support in encouraging punctuality to school.

Messages:

Unfortunately the school Reception Office does not have staff available to deliver messages to girls during the day. In the case of an emergency we will endeavour to get a message delivered before the end of the school day.

Use of Information and Communication Technology Resources

Access to the school Computing Network, the internet and associated resources is a service provided by the school for educational purposes only and under strict conditions, which must be adhered to at all times. Any breach of these conditions will be dealt with through the Behaviour Management process. This may include the removal of access rights.

Use of Mobile Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices

The use of mobile phones and other personal electronic devices is discouraged during school hours. It is recognised that some of these devices are either inappropriately or potentially disruptive in a school environment and, in some cases, activities may be unlawful or illegal. The school takes no responsibility for mobile phones or other personal electronic equipment that is brought to school. They are brought to school at the student's own risk.

Students using an electronic device inappropriately will have it confiscated. Please be aware that any suspected e-crime may result in SAPOL intervention.

The school Information Technology user agreement is in the Student Diary and is required to be signed by all students.

Thank you for your support in these matters we look forward to a successful and enjoyable year.

Penny Tranter
Deputy Principal

NOTE TO PARENTS / STUDENTS

If anyone has items of school uniform they no longer require (in reasonably good condition) and would like to donate to the school they would be gratefully received at Student Services. Thanks

Penny Tranter
Deputy Principal

EUROPEAN EXCHANGES CHRISTMAS 2010

Megan Hall 12.02

Over the Christmas holidays I spent 8 weeks in Italy. From the end of November to the end of January I stayed with a wonderful family in the south of Italy, just outside a city called Bari. I travelled with six other people, another student from Mitcham and four students from Woodcroft and Cardijn Colleges, as well as two teachers who accompanied us.

For the first ten days we travelled to Rome, Venice and Florence. When we arrived we stayed in Rome and it was great. It was so surreal to actually be in Italy as we were all looking forward to it. We visited all the main attractions like the Colosseum, Pantheon, Trevi fountain and the Vatican. We then travelled to Venice which wasn't my favourite city as it was really cold and wet due to the *Acqua Alta* or flooding. If we had been there during fine weather I'm sure Venice would be beautiful. Florence was my favourite city and I would definitely love to visit it again. It was very clean and the city was so majestic. There is a hill that you can climb that shows you a fantastic view of the city and it was amazing.

For the rest of my stay I stayed in the south of Italy in Puglia, a region on the east coast of Italy. Puglia was a very scenic region and it was very agricultural. While I stayed with my family they offered to take me around to different attractions in their region. I saw lots of beautiful old churches and a few ancient castles. Overall my favourite town was Alberobello where they have the most amazing 'dome' shaped houses. It was so original and authentic. Despite seeing Italy, I was also given the opportunity to experience true Italian life with a family. I got along with my family so well and saying goodbye was a very tearful moment.

In the future I can definitely see myself travelling again to Italy and even neighbouring countries. In other words I think I have totally caught the 'travel bug'. I would highly recommend every young student continue doing a language to get the chance to visit Italy. Not only is the country beautiful, genuine and historic, the language is something I suggest everyone should learn.

Bryanna Murfitt 12.03

Italy was one of the opportunities I was waiting for since I started school. I was desperate to improve my skills and learn about their culture and family life. When I arrived I discovered just how amazing it is to stand in a country so far away from my home and feel completely at ease. I felt at home in this country entirely different from my own.

The tour I participated in, before going to my home stay, put everything into perspective. Rome, Venice and Florence give the real historical essence of what Italy is. I then experienced the tourist's view of Italy, eating the best pizza I have ever eaten, being hassled by market vendors and catching more over crowded public transport than I have caught in such a short period of time.

Home stay is a way to fully experience the Italian lifestyle, and it is a busy one! My Italian family was crucial to improving my Italian skills but they also taught me so many other things I couldn't even begin to describe to you. School was a very enjoyable experience for me. Stereotypically Italian schools are known to be strictly for lectures and study, but I managed to deal with this quite easily. My teachers were always kind, helping me with anything I had problems with and the students were just as eager to learn about my culture and family life as I was to learn about theirs.

The Italian exchange program is more than an opportunity to improve your language skills, it's an opportunity to interact and become a part of a culture vastly different to any other country in the world. It's an opportunity to meet people and friends you would never have the chance to meet in your everyday life. The program can open up many opportunities for your future careers and ambitions and perhaps even scholarships if you're interested and dedicated to Italian.

EUROPEAN EXCHANGES CHRISTMAS 2010

Saffron Ronson 12.04

During November last year I was extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to France for a month with a touring group of high school students. The trip lasted one month and brought us back to Adelaide a week before Christmas. This was one month in which I learnt about and embraced French culture.

Touring through the Provence region, a home stay in Ligny-le-Ribault (a village thirty kilometres outside of the town of Orleans) and eight magical days in Paris! I visited defensive fortresses, viewed graffiti from the 15th century; I ate and appreciated crêpes, patés, pastries, cheese, breads, hot chocolates and coffees. I visited churches, cathedrals, basilicas and art galleries. Walking down unevenly paved streets and eating hot chestnuts, I discovered that the exit from the Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes) in Avignon led to a back street. This back street would lead me to find two old ladies scrubbing the floor of a magnificent church, this magnificence hidden by a plain exterior.

We took a day trip to Monaco, spotting Prince Albert through the window of his chauffeured car. I spoke French uncertainly to market stall holders. The TGV trains took us at incredible speeds to our home stay. The Bonnemaïsons, my host family with their dog, Quibac, French High School with Adriane, I navigated impossible catereria lines (with help!), hanging out at the movies on Saturday, hearing the village church bells from my window on Sunday mornings. Making a snow castle! Home stay was full of wonderful activities. La Ferté St. Aubun, a privately owned chateau open with Christmas activities and displays. Madeleines and *chocolat chaud!*

We then headed to Paris - the stunning Musée d'Orsay, the Louvre, a Monet exhibition at the Grand Palais, the view from the Eiffel Tower and the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. The Royals buried at the Basilica of St Denis. Notre Dame and Sacre-Coeur moved me to tears. Montmartre with its cool, artistic vibe entranced me. The daggy old café with the best eggs, mayonnaise and cheap coffee.

Tour group friends for life!

The experience of a life time!

I encourage all to give cultural exchange a chance, you will not regret it.

SCIENCE NEWS



Congratulations to Amy Robertson. Amy has been selected to go on an 11 day trip to NASA in Florida. The program includes a 5 day mock Mars Mission at the Space Centre in Houston, analysing space rocks, rockets, scuba diving, meeting astronauts, seeing the launch of the space shuttle Endeavour at the Kennedy Space Centre and have lots of FUN. We are proud that she is representing Mitcham Girls.

Helen Marussinszky
Science Coordinator

SPORTS NEWS

Term 1 Zone Sport

The 2011 Southern Zone Sport competition for Term 1 got underway this week, with Mitcham having a record number of teams entered in a variety of sports. The teams and staff/parent coaches include:

Open Volleyball:	Team 1 (Navy):	Michael Finos
	Team 2 (White):	Hameed Kamleh (and Bianca Barbon)
Open Indoor Soccer:	Team 1:	Peter Cottle
	Term 2:	Terry Dalkos
	Team 3:	Alex Bambrough
Open Basketball:	Sarah Gray, Anne Carpenter, Antoinette Jones + Sue Mazzei	
Year 8/9 Basketball:	Mike Elliot	
Year 8/9 Volleyball:	Matt Peters	

Thanks to all coaches who have given up their time to coach these teams, as we would be unable to enter the teams with out the assistance of the coaches and staff.

Practices for all teams will occur during lunchtime. Please make sure you attend all scheduled practices. The temporary programs are up in the gym with the finalised program to be handed out when they become available. Any problems or questions please contact Chad or Sandy Alston at the school.

Chad Alston
Sports Assistant

Coles Sports for Schools Program

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who participated in collecting vouchers for the Coles Sports for Schools Program.

Thanks to the help from parents, teachers, students and friends we were able to collect a total of **12,315 vouchers**. This entitles the school to choose from a wide variety of new sporting equipment. The PE faculty is currently selecting and ordering a great deal of new equipment to be used in PE lessons and also for lunchtime and after school sport.

Chad Alston
Sports Assistant

YEAR 8 ARTWORK





CRAFTY IDEA
Year 12 Community Studies Project

Kimberley Combes chose a novel project for her Year 12 Community Studies. She hand-stitched a beautifully coloured quilt, a labour of love which took her most of the year. She donated the quilt to Anglicare where it would be specially appreciated by a family.

Kimberley is pictured with CEO Lynn Arnold, who thanked her on behalf of Anglicare for her hard work.

Diary Dates

March	Thursday 3	Interschool Swimming Carnival
	Saturday 5 – Friday 12	CIS Visit
	Monday 7	Governing Council 7:00pm
	Tuesday 8	International Women’s Day
	Wednesday 9	SRC Training Day
	Monday 14	Public Holiday
	Wednesday 16	Year 11 SAFE Driving Course
	Friday 18	WWW Published on website
	Monday 21	Harmony Day Assembly
	Monday 21	Governing Council AGM 7:00pm
	Wednesday 23 – Friday 25	Stage 2 Aquatics
	Thursday 31	School Photos – Staff and Year 12 Group
	Thursday 31	Year 8 Immunisations
April	Friday 8	Sports Day
	Friday 8	WWW Published on website
	Friday 15	End of Term 1 – Reports distributed at 3:10pm 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).