From The Principal

Dear Families,

Thank you very much for responding to our short survey about our reporting system. The results of the survey are being collated and will certainly be published as soon as finalised. Your suggestions will help the Committee in fine tuning our reporting process.

Thank you also for responding to the survey about the “Parent Voice” forum. Your input will also guide the Governing Council in its resolve to strengthen the partnership between families and school.

Annual General Meeting

The MGHS Governing Council will be held on Monday 4 March. I am hopeful that your daughter has brought home the Notice of Meeting together with a brief explanation of the function of the Governing Council. Parents whose daughter finished Year 12 last year are not seeking re-election, therefore, we do have a large number of vacancies to fill and ask you to consider serving on the Governing Council or at least on a sub committee. If you have not received the information, you will find this on our website.

Congratulations, Claire Bowers and Madison Murray

In my letter to you at the beginning of the year, I talked about the outstanding results of our 2012 Year 12 students. I am now in a position to tell you that Claire Bowers has won the University of Adelaide Principals’ Scholarship. This is usually awarded to the student with the highest ATAR (score) who accepts a place at the University. We congratulate Claire (sorry no photos allowed) and wish her well for the future.

We congratulate Madison Murray on her selection to skate for Australia in the ISU French Cup, Rouen, France & ISU Spring Cup, Milan, Italy in January 2014. Madison’s team “Adelaide Ice Magic” has represented Australia in six international competitions overseas over the past five years.

Safety

Most of our students travel long distances to come to Mitcham and we know that they are sensible and responsible young people. However, it does not hurt for young people to be reminded from time to time that crossing major roads and busy streets can be hazardous. We ask that all students use the traffic lights where possible (rather than avoiding them) and that they are extra careful when crossing streets. Quite often young people use headphones to listen to music on the way to school. This is also a dangerous habit as they cannot hear motorists around them. Please remind your daughter to be very careful when negotiating traffic.

Finally, I hope your daughters have settled well into the school year and are completing all work required of them. If you have issues, please do not hesitate to ring or email the subject teachers or the Year Level Manager. I am also happy to be contacted at any time.

Regards,

Antoinette Jones
MGHS Code of Conduct

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.

As 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.

The Student Code of Conduct is outlined in the Student Diary. The following is a brief outline of some of these.

Student Behaviour Management
All classes develop a Classroom Management Plan to negotiate classroom rules and procedures. A number of consequences are also negotiated with student’s culminating in the use of our Focus Room for continued or extreme behaviours which may impact on the teaching and learning program.

Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination
Mitcham Girls High School takes a strong stance on instances of harassment, bullying and discrimination. We have processes to deal with these issues but they need to be reported to a teacher for any to action occur.

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.

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.

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

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

MGHS Code of Conduct cont.

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.

As stated in the diary, the length of dresses, skirts and shorts should be no shorter than one palm width (which corresponds to 8 centimetres) measured from the crease at the back of the knee. We worked with students and parents during 2012 to address this issue. We will again be working with students and parents throughout the year to ensure dress lengths are appropriate. We hope that families can support the school by adjusting hems as students grow.

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.

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.

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 11:00am 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.

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.

Deadlines
Deadlines are designed to ensure all students are given equal time to complete work. Deadlines are also an opportunity for students to develop their organisational skills and learn to work to deadlines around their school and personal commitments.

Cybersafety
The Cybersafety Policy was developed by a large committee of students, parents, teachers and the school’s Police Liaison Officer. It was designed to address the Education Department requirements, and to raise awareness of cybersafety issues within the context of a school.

All staff, students and visitors to the school can only use ICT facilities within the school if they read and agree to abide by the Cybersafety Code of Conduct. This includes the use of personal devices within the school grounds or on school related activities outside of the school.
MGHS Code of Conduct cont.

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.

Other
Public Transport: 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.

Messages: Unfortunately the school Front 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 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 can use mobile phones or other personal electronic devices in class if the use is approved by the teacher as curriculum related and necessary for the task at hand.

Students using an electronic device inappropriately or without teacher permission will have it confiscated. Please be aware that any suspected e-crime may result in SAPOL intervention.

Tony Sims
Deputy Principal

2013 Materials & Services Charge

Thank you to all our parents who have either paid or arranged payment options for their daughter’s 2013 school fees. This is a reminder that the Materials & Services Charge is to be paid in full by the end of Term 2, 2013.

Parents/Caregivers requiring the option of paying by instalments, due to genuine financial hardship, need to register and sign the appropriate form available from the Finance Office. Arrangements need to be made within 30 days of receipt of invoice.

In 2013 as approved by the Mitcham Girls High School Governing Council, instalment payments must be made fortnightly or monthly. Payments can be made to the school direct by either Bizgate on line or credit card over the phone.

If you have any questions regarding your daughter’s Materials & Services Charge please contact me or Sue King in our Finance Office.

Margaret Neumann
Business Manager

Year 8 Camp Highlights
From the Christian Pastoral Support Worker

If you are a parent or student who is new to Mitcham Girls this year I warmly welcome you to the Mitcham community.

My name is Bek Brown and I am the Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPSW) here at Mitcham Girls. Some of you will be familiar with this role as you would have had a CPSW at your primary school, but if you didn’t then let me fill you in on what I get up to.

My first priority is caring for the people who make up our school community - staff, students and their families. I do this through a variety of ways, from cups of tea in the staff room, to sitting in my room with a student who is struggling, to talking with a parent on the phone. Although I am very busy I always try and make time for this.

If you have a daughter who is finding it hard to settle in or if it is a tough time for your family for whatever reason, then I encourage you to get in touch with me or one of our school counsellors so that we can support your daughter and/or family.

The other main component of my job is to help organise events that bring our school community together, for example International Women’s Day, Harmony Day, Year 12 Retreat and the 40 Hour Famine.

I coordinate two major programs:

- ‘Community Support Program’ where volunteers from our local community come once a week to work with students who come from non-English speaking backgrounds; and
- ‘Random Acts’, a weekly group for students in Years 8 and 9. Based on the idea of random acts of kindness, we come together and make crafts – anything from cards to jewellery which we then give away as an act of kindness.

If you are interested in being a volunteer on the Community Support Program or would like to know more about me or any of the programs I run I would love to hear from you. I work on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and can be contacted by calling the school or you can email me at: Rebekah.Brown659@schools.sa.edu.au

I look forward to another enriching year at Mitcham as we journey together.

Bek Brown
Christian Pastoral Support Worker

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Parent Workshops 2013: Years 9 and 10 Students
As a parent you can support your child in important course and career decisions throughout their secondary schooling.

When: A series of presentations and ‘hands on’ workshops starting in Term 1 through to Term 3.

Topics
Term 1 Parents as Career Partner event
Term 2 The future world of work
Labour market information and where to find it
Help plan your child’s career journey using www.myfuture.edu.au
Today’s (multiple) pathways to University
What do employers want?
Pathway courses available in yours and nearby schools
Term 3 Other further education options such as TAFE and other training providers
Really useful web sites and other resources in choosing a path
How to help when they have no idea what they want to do

Keep an eye out for more details

Lattitude 2014 Applications Now Open!
Applications are now open for students interested in embarking on a volunteering placement in a new culture and community during their gap year in 2014. Lattitude is the original gap year organisation, having supported young Australians on worthwhile and challenging placements for over 40 years.

Placements are available within our region in Asia/Pacific, or further afield in Europe, the Americas and Africa. Exciting additions to the program next year include Japan as a country option, and Medical Assistant placements which will be ideal for those considering a career in a health profession. To help with costs, we have a number of scholarships available to assist with placement fees or flights to certain countries.

The application deadline for all placement options this year is Friday 21 June.
For more information www.lattitude.org.au

Career Information
Defence Force Recruiting Information Sessions. To book a seat for any of the following call 131901.

Mon 4 March Australian Defence Force Academy
Wed 6 March Defence University Scholarship
Thurs 7 March Royal Military College, Duntroon
Wed 13 March Careers in the ADF
Wed 20 March Women in the Defence Force
Wed 27 March Careers in the ADF

Jill Olifent
Student Counsellor / VET Coordinator

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Swimming Carnival

Congratulations FRASER !!

Junior Senior Overall
Spence 261 Fraser 262 Fraser 515
Fraser 227 Mitchell 243 Spence 498
Mitchell 204 Spence 205 Mitchell 473

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What, When and Why 1, Term 1 2013
Counsellor / VET News cont.

International College of Hotel Management Career Week
If you are considering a career in hotel management or business this course is designed to give a taste of the industry. For further information see Ms Olifent or www.ichm.edu.au.

Leadership Opportunities

Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment: Leadership Development workshop April 19th-21st (no cost)
This course is designed for young people who show some leadership skills and are enthusiastic about exploring their potential to expand that skill and serve their community. Details from Ms Olifent, closing date for applications 22 March.

Gap Year Information/Cultural exchanges
Projects Abroad
www.projects-abroad.com.au

Lattitude Global Volunteering
www.lattitude.org.au

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange
www.scce.com.au

Jill Olifent
Student Counsellor / VET Coordinator

DIARY DATES

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Interschool Swimming Carnival
Year 12 Aquatics
Year 8 Parent BBQ Evening 6:00 – 7:00pm
Governing Council AGM 7:00pm (staff room)
Year 10 Aquatics
Parents as Career Partners (UHS 6:30 – 9:00pm)
International Women’s Day
Public Holiday (Adelaide Cup)
Governing Council 7:00pm (staff room)
Harmony Day
Year 8 Immunisations
WWW Published on website
Public Holiday (Good Friday)
Public Holiday (Easter)
Sports Day
Dance Performance 7:00pm
Year 10 Risky Business
End Term 1
Reports distributed 3:10pm