From The Principal

Dear Families,

You would be aware that in 2013 we will be teaching the Australian Curriculum to the Year 8 students. Teachers at Mitcham have spent many days developing programs and we are certainly ready to launch into it. One of our major tasks for 2013 is to develop the Year 9 and possibly the Year 10 programs. To support schools with this development, the Education Department has granted all schools a total of four student free days. Please record these in your dairy:

- 11 June (T2) Student Free Day Professional Learning Day for staff
- 22 July (T3) Student Free Day Professional Learning Day for staff
- 6 September (T3) School Closure Show Day
- 9 September (T3) Student Free Day Professional Learning Day for staff
- 29 November (T4) Student Free Day Professional Learning Day for staff

Your daughter will bring home the Term 4 Report on Wednesday 12 December. I am sure you will congratulate her on her efforts and encourage her to start setting goals for 2013. Generally, our students have worked extremely hard this year and we are proud of their achievements. We do analyse their results and we know we have had fewer students failing one or more subjects than in the past. Indeed, this year, a very high number of students received academic and endeavour certificates. The Year 12 results should be available the week before Christmas. Once again, the students tried their very best and we are expecting some very good results.

Transport
Negotiating public transport at the beginning of the school year may prove to be challenging for students. You would be aware that the Belair, Noarlunga and Tonsley train lines will be closed for a fairly lengthy period. Extra busses will be scheduled in order to alleviate the disruption. It is important, therefore, that you obtain copies of new bus timetables. We appreciate the fact that it may take students a few days to work out what works best for them and we will take this into account if they arrive a little late.

Length of Dresses and Skirts – one palm width from the back of the knee.
Thank you very much for supporting us on this issue. Many of you took the time to let down hems if there was a need. As girls grow, the length of their skirts and dresses gets shorter and we certainly noticed some girls were wearing their uniform a little too short in Term 4. May I ask you to check the length of your daughter’s uniform; if it’s any shorter that one palm width from the back of the knee, may I ask you to let it down.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to wish you a happy and relaxing festive season.

Regards,
Antoinette Jones
The 2012 Presentation Night was held at the Capri theatre on November 14th. Among the highlights were two moving songs, ‘Memories’ sung by Dahlia Kukolj, and ‘For Good’ sung by Brynja Berndsen and Sophie Scott as part of the Principal’s address.

The Community Connections speech given by Jamila Main outlined many of the opportunities at MGHS to serve, volunteer and be involved with our communities.

Taleah Thomas gave the Valedictory Address highlighting the contributions and experiences of the Class of 2012.

We proudly awarded prizes to Year 8 to 11, All-round winners and to the Major Award winners (listed on page 5).

Thank you to all members of our school community who assisted, sponsored awards and attended the successful evening.

Meredith Arnold
Arts Coordinator
STAGE 2 END OF YEAR

The Stage 2 students had a series of events to celebrate their ‘rite of passage’ from school to the wider world.

The formal farewell assembly by the school took place early in Term 4 where students Georgina Sulley-Beales and Kiara Wanner took a journey of their years at Mitcham – a very special group because they were Year 8s in 2008.

This was followed by Celebration Day where costumes were many and varied, teachers also farewelled students more personally and we were very privileged to share in a delicious morning tea arranged by Bek Brown, our Christian Pastoral Support Worker and provided by our very supportive Mitcham Inter-Church Council. Bek organised a special purse of memory elements for every student in Stage 2.

Presentation Night was the next formal event for students, where Taleah Thomas presented the Valedictory Speech and Jamila Main spoke about the school’s connections with the community. This occasion was followed by the most glittering event at the very end, the Year 12 Formal at the Intercontinental, where students were excited, glamorous, elegant and definitely ready to take the next step into their futures.

Congratulations to all of the Stage 2 students from all of us at Mitcham.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are delighted that two of our students who studied subjects through the Open Access College are the recipients of Academic Awards. The students are Kimberly Lai for Stage 1 French and Jamila Main for Stage 2 Women’s Studies.

These students show academic skills and have the ability to work independently and consistently and we congratulate them on their success.

Kimberly is going to France on exchange for the summer vacation and will have many stories to tell on her return.

Sue Howlett
SACE Coordinator

YEAR 12 FORMAL
YEAR 12 CELEBRATIONS

Finishing high school is the goal to which most students aspire. The class of 2012 began their journey in the year 2000, and this year finally celebrated graduation and the end of a significant part of their lives.

On Monday 22 October, a Celebration Assembly was held in honour of the graduating students. Teachers who provided support throughout the trials and tribulations of Year 12 addressed the school and its community noting that for many it may have been a tough and challenging year, but that they had survived. The seniors had indeed become role models for the rest of the school.

Year 12 students, Georgina Sulley-Beales and Kiara Wanner, gave the Valedictory Speech. A number of awards were presented and talented musical student, Dahlia Kukolj, provided a stunning rendition of ‘Memories’ from the musical Cats. Finally, the senior class went out with a bang, popping several hundred party poppers.

The following day, Celebration Day, was an opportunity for the students to wreak havoc (though not too much of course!), and decorate the school in celebration of graduation and impending exams. ‘Mario and Luigi’ collected money for Animal Welfare by demanding payment for parking in the car park, while Cowboys and Indians hung streamers and blew up balloons. Younger students were quite surprised when they fled their classrooms for recess, having to stop and admire an art installation; hundreds of plastic cups carefully placed in the busiest hallway. After picking up all those broken cups, and having morning tea with staff, the class of 2012 met in the Performing Arts Centre to watch videos of all the good times they had experienced in their years at Mitcham Girls. Then it was off to prepare for exams and the Formal.

Congratulations to all 2012 Seniors!

Daila Smits (12.01)
**AWARD WINNERS 2012**

**Subject Excellence Awards**
- Biology: Emma Knight
- Business & Enterprise: Matthew Prinsloo (UHS)
- Chemistry: Amy Robertson
- Community Studies: Amy Hammer
- Dance: Katherine Dunning (UHS)
- Drama: Emma Knight
- English as a Second Language Studies: Baria Khan
- English as a Second Language: Runa Hong
- English Communications: Emma Knight
- English Studies: Eloise Quihampton
- Food and Hospitality: Samantha Trangmar
- French: Chelsea Davies
- Information Processing and Publishing: Amy Robertson
- Mathematical Applications: Eloise Quihampton
- Mathematics Studies: Amy Robertson
- Mathematical Methods: Rachael Hewlett
- Photography: Georgina Sulley-Beales
- Physical Education: Kiara Wanner
- Psychology: Samantha Trangmar
- Research Project 1: Morgan Warneford
- Research Project 2: Kimberly Lai
- Visual Art Studies ART: Misbah Khaliq
- Visual Art Studies DESIGN: Georgina Sulley-Beales
- Women’s Studies: Roxanne Brooks

**Contribution to the SRC**
- Roxanne Brooks
- Taleah Thomas
- Ellie Thomas
- Dani Caradonna
- Baria Khan

**Major Award Recipients**
- Dantalis Award: Eloise Quihampton
- Hughes and Loveday Sports Award: Georgina Sulley-Beales
- Rotary Performing Arts Award: Daila Smits
- Rotary Community Studies Award: Kahla Parsons
- Mitcham Inter-Church Council Commitment to Study Award: Becky Fleet
- Leading Ambassador Award: Baria Khan
- CIS Internationalism Award: Runa Hong
- Carrick Institute of Education VET: Kahla Parsons
- Elliott Citizenship Award: Jamila Main
- Caltex Medal: Georgina Sulley-Beales
- Millhouse Award (DUX): Eloise Quihampton

**Year Level Prizes**
- Year 8 Bank SA Prize: Ashley Nixon-Dores
- Year 9 Campion Education Prize: Nicola Sulley-Beales
- Year 10 City of Mitcham / Margaret Ward Prize: Nina Ash-Clarke
- Year 11 KW Stationery Wholesalers Prize: Kimberly Lai
SPORT NEWS

Zone Sport Finals
Congratulations to all the girls who competed in Terms 3 & 4 Zone Sport. We have had a successful term entering a Year 8/9 Volleyball team, three Open Volleyball teams, Year 8/9 Basketball team, Open Basketball team and Badminton team.

Congratulations to our Mitcham Navy Open Volleyball Team who finished 3rd and our Open Basketball Team who finished 2nd. Well done Girls!

A special thank you to all the staff, coaches and parents who supported our School Sport program throughout 2012.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MITCHELL
2012 COLLYER CUP WINNER

The Collyer Cup is awarded to the House that accumulates the most points in House events. The overall tally incorporates results from Sport Day, Swimming Carnival, lunchtime House Sport competitions, as well as points from the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

As you know, this year FRASER won the Swimming Carnival and FRASER won Sports Day but both by very small margins. However, it was MITCHELL who dominated the lunchtime House Sport competition with SPENCE in 2nd place.

The final results are:

MITCHELL 2,969 points
SPENCE 2,436 points
FRASER 2,335 points

Congratulations to Georgina Sulley-Beales, Mitchell House Captain, the Mitchell Year 8,9,10 and 11 Vice Captains and, of course, all of the Mitchell students who participated in the House activities this year.

House Captains for 2013
Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to lead their House in the coming year:

FRASER
Year 12 Captain Kelly Harrison
Year 11 Vice Captain Natalia Sciezka
Year 10 Vice Captain Helen Smith
Year 9 Vice Captain Alicia Murphy

SPENCE
Year 12 Captain Ma-musu Nyande
Year 11 Vice Captain TJ Walkden
Year 10 Vice Captain Nikki Huggard
Year 9 Vice Captain Emily Cribb

MITCHELL
Year 12 Captain Sied Ronson
Year 11 Vice Captain Sienna Shaw
Year 10 Vice Captain Nicole Sully-Beales
Year 9 Vice Captain Amy Skingsley

Thank you to the outgoing house captains who did a fantastic job in leading their houses through the swimming carnival, sports day and house sport competitions in 2012.

Good luck to all the 2013 House Captains. I wish you a successful and enjoyable year of House Sport.

Sandy Alston
HPE Co-coordinator
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

This is an update on what is happening in the world of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at MGHS.

Over the last few years we have provided 1:1 computers for our students and will continue to do so into 2013. Many schools are initiating schemes to allow students to purchase their own laptops, iPads or tablets. MGHS is currently researching and gathering information to allow us to decide which option will best suit our school. We will consider the financial impact that any scheme will have on the families in our school community.

We are also preparing to upgrade the school’s infrastructure to manage the increasing demands and to supply a reliable and efficient system to all users. At a recent ICT Committee meeting we made the decision to spend a large proportion of the 2013 budget allocation on the upgrade of our current infrastructure.

None of the decisions are taken lightly and we have sought quotes from expert groups before committing these funds to ensure that we continue to meet demands over the next few years.

In 2013 students will be given an increased allocation of Internet credit to allow for the increased demand of “research” in our teaching and learning. There will also be a new upgraded array of photocopiers and printers for student and staff use, which may result in reduced printing charges for the students.

Some students have begun to bring their own laptops to school. This is not encouraged and we ask all students to adhere to the following guidelines if they choose to do so:

- Use of any ICT devices must be in line with the MGHS Cybersafety Guidelines. These are a part of our Code of Conduct and are printed in the school diary.
- As with all items of value, Mitcham Girls High School takes no responsibility for the loss of or damage to any personal property brought into the school.
- It is not always possible for our IT support team to assist students with issues that arise with their personal devices.
- Due to workplace safety and the need for electrical devices to be tested, it will not be possible for students to charge personal devices at school.
- In specialist subjects, teachers may direct students to use school computers and not allow the use of personal ICT devices.
- Software cannot be provided to students by MGHS. This would contravene current licensing laws.
- Different software packages may cause compatibility issues between school devices and personal devices. MGHS uses Office 2010 and Adobe CS4 Creative Suite on school owned computers.
- Non compatible software on student laptops may hinder teacher instruction.
- It is currently not possible to configure personal ICT devices to allow access to the MGHS network. This helps us prevent the transfer of malicious software.
- School printing facilities are only available for school computers.
Management of Data
Students are encouraged to use storage devices to transfer and backup data. A USB or portable hard drive is ideal for this use and should ideally be used in conjunction with the MGHS server. The school server is the most reliable place to save and back up data. If data has been modified at home, ideally it should be transferred to the server when next the student is working on a school computer.

- MGHS cannot be responsible for lost or corrupt data not stored on the school server. It is the student’s responsibility to save all data onto the school server.
- Storage devices, such as USB drives, must be frequently virus checked and kept in a safe place.
- Back up versions of data should be kept on the school server as well as in a home location if possible.
- Teaching staff may insist on work being delivered into the “drop box” facility and not accept an email, particularly in the case of large files with image rich data.
- Teaching staff are not able to print student work. Any work submitted via the “drop box” or email will remain the student’s responsibility to produce to a hard copy if required for assessment purposes.
- The SACE Board requires teaching staff to verify student work; therefore, there must be evidence of the work evolving as back-up to any work handed in for a SACE subject assessment.

Please note, effective 15 December 2012, the school’s new email address will be: dl.0903_info@schools.sa.edu.au. All staff email addresses can be accessed through the school’s website via the link http://www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au/contact/.

We look forward to an excellent year in 2013 with updated facilities to assist our girls strive for excellence.

Anne Carpenter
Assistant Principal

CHRISTIAN PASTORAL SUPPORT

Christmas Greetings! WOW, where has this year gone! Hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner! It’s been another very full year – schools are big, busy places and there is never a dull moment! But I can honestly say that I love my job as Christian Pastoral Support Worker and I especially love being at Mitcham Girls High School.

Saying goodbye is never fun and in this job it is very easy to get attached to people, which makes it even harder... A few weeks ago we farewelled our Year 12s and it was exciting to see them graduate – knowing that they have so much ahead of them – but also sad – knowing that we won’t see their lovely faces around the school any more. But life is full of seasons and there is a time for everything and it is their time to spread their wings and soar. I wish them all the very best as they ‘go in the direction of their dreams’...

A special thank you to all the staff and parents who have supported and encouraged me this year; it’s been great getting to know you better. Thanks to the Mitcham Inter-Church Council for its continued support, not only of me, but of our whole school community.

Thanks especially to all the volunteers who have helped out on the New Arrivals Community Support Program (NACSP) this year. Without you we could not offer this extra support to our students from non-English speaking backgrounds. If you would like to know more about how you can volunteer on this program in 2013 please get in touch with me. And last, but definitely not least, thanks to our girls who make this school such a vibrant place.

Hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a good start to 2013! See you back at school!

Bek Brown
**First Lego League Tournament**

On 17 November two teams from the Year 8 SHIP Science class gave up their Saturday to compete in the First Lego League tournament held at Prince Alfred College.

We spent the last 8 weeks preparing for the day, which included building a robot out of Lego and programming it to complete ‘missions’ on a playing board. Each team also had to complete a major research project into this year’s theme ‘Senior Solutions’, identifying problems people face as they age, and coming up with innovative solutions.

The girls’ enthusiasm, teamwork and participation on the day was outstanding.

Congratulations to team ‘Break a Leg-o’ who took home the Research Award.

A special thank you to our volunteer mentors Penny West and Grant Paproth who spent countless hours helping the girls prepare.

*Emma Langhans*

*Science Teacher*

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**Year 9 Excursion to Adelaide Botanic Gardens**

On 1 November my Year 9 Science class went on an excursion to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. While exploring the garden, which some students had never visited before, we discovered specimens of bromeliads, lotus, lilies, papyrus, bamboo and flax.

The students learned the many historical and scientific processes involved with how some of these plants have been used to create fabric, furniture and paper products. In particular, we looked at the extent and importance of sustainable procedures for the manufacture of plant and wood pulp products. In addition to this we took the opportunity to tour the natural fibre exhibit in the Botanic Gardens Museum and the plants and seed made available to the public through the on site volunteers’ plant shop.

On returning to the classroom laboratory the students followed up this activity making their own parchment from lawn clippings. While some final products did not go as planned they gained a significant understanding of the involved and extensive process of making paper, especially in respect to the amount of wood pulp versus the large amount of water required to make a basic sheet of writing paper.

*Christine Taylor*

*Science & Maths Teacher*
FINANCE NEWS

Materials and Services Charge for 2013
The following are the results of a poll conducted by the Mitcham Girls High School Council. The poll has been conducted in accordance with Education Act 1972 and the Materials and Services Charges Administrative Instructions and Guidelines issued in October 2012.

Number of persons liable for the charge: 615
Number of families polled: 580

Results of the poll:
For: 62
Against: 14

The Principal, Antoinette Jones, has approved the Prescribed Sum of $595.00 Materials and Services Charge for 2013.

Finance Office - Holiday Open Times
The Finance Office staff will be available from Monday 21 January 2013 (8:00am to 2:00pm each day) to assist parents with Materials and Services Charge payments, time payment contracts and School Card applications.

Payments can be made by:
a) Cheque payable to Mitcham Girls High School.
b) EFTPOS (in person or credit card over the phone or by returning the slip provided).
c) Direct payment through any bank to the school Bank SA account using either the Invoice number, Family Code or Student’s ED ID number as identification.
d) Cash.
e) On line internet banking direct or through Bizgate (instruction will be provided with your invoice).

Instalments
Parents/Caregivers who require the option of paying by instalments, due to genuine financial hardship, will need to register and sign the appropriate contract which will be available from the Finance Office as from Monday 21 January 2013.

All fees are to be paid in full by the end of Term 2 (5 July 2013).

Margaret Neumann
Business Manager
**STAGE 1 & 2 BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE**

Special thanks to Todd Miller (Aussie Inc), Sean Mansell (Ranstand Recruitment) and Tim Callcott (Focus Growth Strategies) for sharing their life experiences, enthusiasm, industry knowledge and business thinking with our Stage 1 and 2 Business and Enterprise students this year.

Thanks also to Advantage SA for organising those speakers through their Speakers in Schools Program. We look forward to seeing you again in 2013 and welcoming more industry leaders into the classroom.

Renata Potoczky  
Business and Enterprise Teacher

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**COUNSELLOR NEWS**

**Parent Workshops 2013**  
As a parent, you can support your child in important course and career decisions throughout their secondary schooling.

There will be a series of presentations and ‘hands on’ workshops commencing in Term 1 through to Term 3.

**Topics**

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<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Parents as Career Partner event</td>
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| 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  
Trades and how to get there  
What do employers want?  
Pathway courses available in your school as well as 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

**Get Growin’ Weekly Group**  
Open to young people aged 15-18 years who are seeking support with any issues. Attendance at the group is free and young people can self refer.

- **When:** Mondays 4:30 - 6:00pm  
- **Contact:** Natalie King  
- **Tel:** 08 8298 9299  
- **Email:** natali@sagrow.net.au
Tips on How to Prepare Teenagers for Situations Where Others May Misuse Alcohol

Over 80% of adolescents have used alcohol by the time they are 14 years of age.

The National Health and Medical Research Council recommends that young people under the age of 15 do not drink any alcohol at all, and that until the age of 18 years the consumption of alcohol should be delayed as long as possible.

Many teenagers begin drinking by obtaining alcohol through what is known as secondary supply, this is where an adult or parent provides alcohol in a private home. Almost 40% of under-age drinkers get alcohol from their parents in this way.

The dilemma for many parents is whether or not to allow teenagers to drink while supervised or to turn a blind eye to their experimentation with alcohol. It is important to prepare young people for the times when they will encounter alcohol during social settings, especially parties. Any drinking by adolescents under the age of 18 should be at low risk levels, in a safe environment, and supervised by an adult.

Tips for teaching teenage how to be responsible around alcohol

Give them strategies as school finishes and the Christmas season fast approaches, many teenagers will be facing situations where alcohol is available at parties. It is important to talk to young people about how to deal with situations that may arise when drinking gets out of hand. Make them aware of the dangers of drinking for the sake of getting drunk. Give them some strategies that will allow them to remove themselves from these situations without causing them embarrassment. Make sure they have an excuse ready if they feel uncomfortable and want to leave. Make it clear that you will come and get them no matter what the circumstances are or how late it is.

Peer Pressure: discuss the pressures they might feel from friends who are trying to encourage them to drink and the pressures of drinking to impress someone they like at a party. Again suggest some ‘reasons’ they could give for not drinking so that other people are not offended and don’t get angry that they are not ‘joining in’; for example, they could say that they have already had a drink and that they are pacing themselves or that they are on medication and cannot drink.

Stay safe: talk about how to minimise the harms associated with drinking alcohol while they are out. Encourage them to stay with their friends, not to walk off alone and watch out for people who might try to spike their drinks. Tell them not to put their drinks down but keep hold of them until they have finished. Make them aware of what a standard drink is and what the recommended safe limit is. It is better they drink slowly and eat during the course of the evening to help slow down the absorption of alcohol into the system.

Drink driving: talk to them about the dangers of getting into a car with someone who has been drinking, even if they are usually a good and trusted friend. Tell them to NEVER get into a car of someone who has been drinking and to NEVER drive themselves. Make a plan in case this situation arises; for example, agree to pay for their taxi home or agree that if they phone you will pick them up straight away.

Speak to the host: ring the host before the party begins to make sure there will be adequate adult supervision. Find out if they will be supplying alcohol and if everyone is legally allowed to drink. Do not supply alcohol for your young person if there will be people under 18 years old at the party.

Jill Olifent
Student Counsellor
What, When and Why No 10, Term 4  2012

UNIFORM MANAGEMENT SERVICES

109 Rundle Street, KENT TOWN
PH:  08 8363 5255
Trading Hours
Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
JANUARY 2013 - OPEN EVERY SATURDAY 9:00AM - 12 NOON
Closed 20th December 2012 & Re-Open 2nd January 2013

UNIFORM MANAGEMENT SERVICES
would like to take this opportunity to thank all teachers,
parents & students for your continued support in the Year 2012 &
would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas & A Prosperous New Year.

DIARY DATES

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<tr>
<th>Dec 2012</th>
<th>Monday 10</th>
<th>Years 8/9 Community Service Day</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Tuesday 11 – Wednesday 12</td>
<td>Years 8/9 Activity Days</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 12</td>
<td>End Term 4</td>
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<td>Thursday 13</td>
<td>Reports Distributed 2:20pm</td>
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| Jan 2013 | Tuesday 29 | Term 1 Begins |

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“Its VACSWIM time Again”

Enrol your children in the 2013 SA Water VACSWIM

On site enrolments are coming up - 1st December 2012 for Metro areas and 29th December 2012 for regional areas – check our website for your local site

OR ENROL ONLINE NOW

www.vacswimsa.com.au

For more information, please visit our new and exciting website www.vacswimsa.com.au or call (08) 8200 2525.

*PROGRAM DATES CAN VARY, PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR REGULAR PROGRAM UPDATES.