From The Principal

Dear Families,

Year 8 Camp, Year 9 Resilience Days, SACE Day, Swimming Carnival, Sports Day, meetings of parents, Annual General Meeting and primary school visits are the major activities, apart from teaching and learning, that we manage to cram into the first term of the school year.

This year, however, we have been extra busy organising travel arrangements and preparing briefs for various publications. As you know, the First Lego League Team ‘Let it Grow’ is busy raising funds to go to China where they will be representing Mitcham Girls High School, South Australia and Australia in the Robotics Competition. Recently, we have also learned that Hibra Shujaat, a Year 11 student, has won the Simpson Prize and she will also be representing our school, our State and our Nation at Gallipoli in April at the Anzac Day commemorations. We certainly have a lot to be proud of!

The Mitcham Engineering and Robotics Centre is beginning to take shape and the students are beginning to reap the benefits of a new technology curriculum which focuses on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). By next term we hope to have 15 robots so that more students will have the opportunity to learn how to program or “code” a robot. Perhaps, in the future, we will have more than one team competing overseas!

Currently the students have access to a 3D printer and are already designing and engineering items of interest to them. An online shop will be established for entrepreneurial students to market their goods. Teachers and students alike are very excited by these developments.

On the last day of this term you will receive your daughter’s report. You will notice we have changed the reporting format. After feedback from parents, rather than adding generic comments against each of the subjects we decided to give you more information about your daughter’s “learning dispositions” as well as a grade. Greater commentary and feedback about your daughter’s work will be provided once you have access to the Daymap Parent Portal in July.

Open Day/Night: If you know families with young girls in primary school, please support us by encouraging them to attend Open Day/Night on Monday 9 May.

Parent/Teacher Interviews: Interview booking times can be booked online at www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au from Friday 15 April at 9:00am and will close Monday 2 May at 3:00pm. More detailed information will be distributed in the last week of term.

I will be on long service leave for all of Term 2. However, I will travel to China to “cheer the girls on” when they compete. Tony Sims will be Acting Principal.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday.

Antoinette Jones
**International Students - Can You Help?**

Can you provide a bed, food and lots of love?

There is a group of about 12 students from Japan wanting to come to Mitcham Girls High School on a study tour for 13 days in Term 3. Therefore, we need homestay families to support them.

**Dates:**
- Arrival - 31 July 2016
- Departure - 12 August 2016

Payment to each family $430.00.

If you think you can help please call Jenni Stewart (8272 8233) as soon as possible. If you are not an “accredited” family, we will guide you through the process.

Antoinette Jones

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**Governing Council News**

The AGM of the Governing Council was held on Monday 21 March where the 2015 Annual Report was presented and major achievements for 2015 were outlined. The Annual Report appears on the school’s website for those parents who are keen to read it.

Below are the names of the members of the Governing Council for 2016 and the names of parents and staff who have joined various sub-committees of the Council.

**Members:** Greg Bowden, Sharyn Bowden, Alberto Giurelli, Sharon Hughes, Rob McDonald, Greg Macpherson, Suzanne Marsh, Ady Milotti, David O’Mahoney, Tim O’Loughlin, Andrew Piggin, Sarah Poole, Laura Rodriguez, Mark Whyte

**Chairperson**
- Andrew Piggin

**Vice Chairperson**
- David O’Mahoney

**Treasurer**
- Sharon Hughes

**Secretary / Minute Secretary**
- Jenni Stewart

**Staff Reps**
- Tony Sims, Colleen Tomlian

**Canteen**
- Zinta Ozolins, Sharon Hughes, Suzanne Marsh

**Finance**
- Andrew Piggin, Mark Whyte, Sharon Hughes

**Fundraising**
- Tim O’Loughlin

**ICT**
- Ady Milotti, Andrew Piggin

**Parent Voice**
- David O’Mahoney, Sharon Hughes, Mark Whyte, Sarah Poole

**Physical Resources**
- Laura Rodriguez, Greg Macpherson, Rob McDonald

**Uniform**
- Sarah Poole

Please be aware that you do not need to be elected to the Governing Council to join a sub-committee. If you are interested in joining any of the sub-committees please email Jenni Stewart at jennifer.stewart490@schools.sa.edu.au.

Andrew Piggin | Chairperson
**Middle School News**

**Term 1 Overview**

Term 1 this year has been event filled for students and indeed families in the Middle School. Camp for Year 8 and Focus Days for Year 9 were successful, despite difficult weather conditions. In general, the students persevered, toughed it out and met the challenges full on. Staff are always happy to see determination blossom in some, and are reminded too that other students may need support in changing their mind-sets. The Swimming Carnival was enjoyed by all, the SRC and House Captains have been elected, Zone Sport, Debating program and Book Club are all up and running.

Week 5 saw over one hundred people: students with their families and staff meet informally for an evening BBQ. It was an opportunity for parents to connect with other parents and to put names to faces and enjoy some tasty salads and well-cooked sausages. We thank Dana Thomas (Year 8 Manager), John Ziesing (BBQ King) and Catherine Chambers (Assistant Chef) for their efforts in providing the key elements for the evening. Also, thanks to anyone who was able to attend.

The BBQ was followed by a Parent Voice Forum hosted by Antoinette Jones (Principal) and Zinta Ozolins. Information, both general and specific to the school, was provided. Some member of the Governing Council were introduced, the Canteen was promoted and parents were able to have questions answered. The school believes that meetings such as this help build and develop the school’s now firmly established reputation for success in so many areas.

Another event approaching quickly is Sports Day on Friday 8 April. Students are encouraged to participate fully. Team colours, team support as well as event participation are the main aims.

After the holidays, Year 9 students will be undertaking NAPLAN testing. These tests are no longer an unfamiliar exercise, and we strongly encourage every student in Year 9 to sit them. They are not pass or fail, nor are they overly long. They are, however, designed to provide a snapshot of individual student progress and strengths and weaknesses. This is an important attribute of the program particularly for students who may be struggling or underachieving, so that targeted support can be provided.

Families who do not want their daughters tested, due to religious or philosophical reasons, must complete an exemption form. Students this year will also undertake a general well-being survey – more information will be provided as it becomes available.

**Children’s University Program**

It has been pleasing to see that a number of students have purchased their passports and are getting into the habit of documenting their out-of-class learning. If a student participates in after school dance, sport, volunteering or other clubs or activity, this can all be counted. In-school activities include SRC, House Captain, Book Club, Debating, Primary School Visits and a whole range of other activities and volunteering.

The University also has partnerships with many other educational organisations such as the Museum, Art Gallery, Botanic Gardens and similar. Visits to these institutions also count for hours. More detailed information about possible family destinations can be found on their website. Students who started their passport last year and would like to continue, must pay a renewal fee of $25.00, but may continue with their current passport, allowing hours to accrue.

Students new to the program buy their passport and then see Ms Ozolins to ensure that they understand what is required. We look forward to having a large presence at the Graduation this year.

Zinta Ozolins  |  Assistant Principal Middle School
Sports News

Interschool Swimming

The Interschool Swimming Championship is a competition held between various high schools state-wide. The team from Mitcham Girls High School was selected from the students who were placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their races during the school Swimming Carnival. The team this year consisted of:

Year 8
Nicola Lieff
Nuala Berthold
Jordan Bing
Jacinta Sydenham-Carter
Odette Sim

Year 9
Amelia Green
Georgia Tucker
Ella Nixon-Dores
Abbey Korendyk
Millie Thompson

Year 10
Amber Mysiszczew
Caitlin Hayes
Carly Williams
Laura Kneipp

Year 11
Jessica Tuckwell
Briana Fantis
Maddy Williams

Year 12
Izzy Green
Jaymee Langrehr
Daisy Barlow
Amy Skingsley

The team travelled by bus to the Marion Aquatic & Leisure Centre to represent Mitcham Girls High School. The events the girls participated in were 50m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly and individual events in different divisions. There was also a Medley Relay (all four strokes) where the girls with the best times took part in their selected stroke. There were girls also competing in the 4 X 50m Freestyle Relay for each age group which meant that we had someone in every event.

The girls in their stylish Mitcham Girls swimming caps took to the water, swimming their best to gain points. Over the day girls were in and out the pool, racing against other girls from other schools. There were high hopes for this year’s swimmers after last year’s success and, in the end, the girls were placed 2nd in their division, having moved up a grade from last year.

All students’ efforts on the day were outstanding. Those attending had a great time supporting each other to achieve and in the end that’s what mattered most.

Isobel Green | 12.43

Congratulations
Lauren Jury who has been selected to represent Secondary School Sport SA at the forthcoming School Sport Australia Softball Championships in Melbourne from 30 April to 7 May. Lauren will join fourteen other students from various schools across Adelaide.

Bri Parsons | PE Teacher
**Science News**

**Big Science Competition**
The Big Science Competition challenges students to think critically and solve scientific problems. By using everyday examples it raises awareness of the role science plays in the world around us. The competition is suitable for all students from Years 8 to 12 and is an easy way to extend students in science.

All entrants receive valuable feedback in a comprehensive report showing individual student performance and a comparison with state and national results. The student’s efforts will be recognised with a certificate.

Everyone who enters has a chance to win a prize including iTunes vouchers and movie tickets. Top scorers are encouraged to enter the Australian Science Olympiad Competition for their chance to represent Australia at the “Olympics of Science”, the International Science Olympiads, the Asian Science Camp or Curious Minds Mentoring Program.

The competition takes one hour to complete in school. The questions are aligned with the Australian Curriculum – Science and are written and analysed by the Australian Council of Education Research (ACER), Australia’s leading organisation for educational research.

- **Cost:** $7.70 per student. Please pay at the Finance Office by Thursday 5 May (Term 2 Week 1)
- **When:** 18 - 25 May
- **Length:** 50 mins, 30 multiple choice questions

For more information go to [www.asi.edu.au](http://www.asi.edu.au).

**China Lego League**
Thank you for your support of our recent fundraising events, including a bake sale and the Kyton’s lamington drive.

The next fundraiser is the movie ‘Zootopia’ at the Capri Cinema, 141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood, on Saturday 9 April at 4:00pm. Tickets are available through the Finance Office or members of the ‘Let it Grow’ team. Adults $15.00 and Children $13.00.

We are fundraising for the Mitcham Girls HS Lego League team, Team *Let it Grow*. We have been invited to represent Australia at the international tournament in China in June 2016.

**Purchase tickets from any member of Let it Grow, from Ms Langhans or at the finance office.**

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Helen Marussizky  |  Science Coordinator
Women in Engineering Challenge
The Year 11 Physics class went to Flinders University at Tonsley Park to apply their knowledge and experimental skills to find a solution to model real world problems. They found this both challenging and rewarding.

Year 10 Brain Bee
A group of Year 10 students volunteered to find out how their brain works entering an online competition to test their knowledge and understanding of this most complex machine.

Oliphant Science Awards
All Year 8 and 9 students will be participating in the Oliphant Science Awards as part of their science class and homework. The best entries will be chosen in Term 2 and entered into the state competition. The topics and guidelines are in Daymap.

Other year levels are also invited to submit an entry. Students can follow up with their science teacher for more details or view http://www.oliphantscienceawards.com.au/.

Mobile Muster
Do you have old mobile phones, batteries or chargers? Would you like to help save chimpanzees? Recycling reduces the mining of coltan, a mineral used in most mobile phones. Mining results in the clearing of essential Chimpanzee habitat in coltan-rich areas such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and drives the bush meat trade, further exacerbating the decline of populations.

Place any unwanted mobile phones, batteries or chargers in the marked box outside Science before the end of this term. For more information http://www.janegoodall.org.au/mobile-phone-recycling-2/.
Whole School News

Harmony Day
Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. A day to spread love and happiness and the message that everyone belongs. On this day the students of Mitcham Girls High School, in particular the SRC, demonstrated and promoted these ideals perfectly.

Lunch time on Harmony Day was showered with orange flowers, beautiful notes and positive, smiling faces. Students had the opportunity to purchase orange flowers from a stall run by the SRC, attach a note, and have it delivered to a friend during Care Group. There was an overwhelming amount of girls who wanted to be involved in spreading the Harmony Day spirit and we sold out of flowers in 15 minutes. However, that didn’t stop the girls from writing notes full of happiness and love on whatever paper they could find. The stall stirred up feelings of gratitude and attributes of selflessness, all in the spirit of creating a positive and welcoming environment.

It was wonderful to see the faces of students light up on Tuesday morning as the SRC delivered the flowers and notes. The event turned out to be a surprising success and we were all happy to see everyone embracing the themes of Harmony Day.

The SRC would like to thank Mr Peters for making our Harmony Day photo frames, which students enjoyed taking photos with, Ms Rogers for her donation of art supplies and the Canteen for their excellent range of special meals on the day.

We look forward to an even bigger and better event next year.

Ashely Nixon-Dores | 12.44

Sustainability Summit
Adelaide City Council has offered students from Mitcham Girls High School thirty free places in a Switched on Schools Summit to be held on 18 and 19 May. This is an environmental summit which is attended by students from a number of schools and was attended by our students last year. It is a free, fully catered event. If your daughter is interested please call Sharyn Clarke on 8272 8233 or email sharyn.clarke405@schools.sa.edu.au.

Sharyn Clarke | HASS Teacher

International Students
For three weeks in March three students from Akashi College, Japan, attended classes at Mitcham Girls High with lessons focusing on a course of intensive English language learning, increasing the students’ understanding of Australian culture and experiencing a range of elective and core subjects at Year 10. As a part of this experience students were buddied with the SRC representative from their Care Group. The SRC students demonstrated their clear understanding of the school value of Global Citizenship and provided excellent support and guidance to our Japanese visitors.

The time spent at school culminated with the six international students at Year 10 (three are long stay students) and the SRC Year 10 girls, Summer, Alina and Jasmine, spending time together appreciating the flora and fauna at Cleland Conservation Park.

Colleen Tomlian | HASS Teacher
**International Women’s Day**

On Friday 4 March the SRC Executive attended the International Women’s Day Breakfast at the Adelaide Convention Centre and listened to a talk from a special guest about feminism.

On Monday 7 March an assembly was held to celebrate International Women’s Day as well as student leaders in the Mitcham school community. The Hon Susan Close addressed the assembly about striving to take every opportunity presented to them and Iona Black spoke on behalf of her Women’s Studies class on the history of International Women’s Day. Hon Susan Close awarded the 2016 Eden Prize to Hibra Shujaat.

Recognition was also given to the students participating in the First Lego League Competition: Skylah Armfield, Cassie Barrow, Laura Cole, Jean Davis, Ellen Demaagd, Evelyn Denton, Jade Doherty, Emma Fraser, Emily Ritson and Sarah Wittwer.

Leadership badges were presented to the following:

- **Year 11 Peer Leaders**: Charlotte Anderson, Jasmina Belicevska, Kathryn Jackson, Caitlyn Lang, Tori McDonald, Iesha Mitton, Indiana Piggin, Daria Shanta, Jasmine Steer, Cody Thompson, Jessica Tuckwell, Madeline Weber, Kendall West, Maddy Williams and Isabelle Brealey.
- **Maths Leaders**: Subin Kim, Nameera Mansuri, Brianna Fantis, Hibra Shujaat, Lily Atkinson, Danielle Hughes, Zali Craig and Danika Thomas.
- **Year 8 House Captains**: Fraser - Bonnie Charvel and Tamrah Steer; Mitchell - Talara McHugh and Bella Sulisto; Spence - Zarlie Lynch and Claire McCormack.

The SRC representatives from every year level also received their badges and gave the Oath of Office in front of the school.

On 8 March, International Women’s Day, decorations, flags and a banner were placed in prominent positions around the school by the SRC reps. All the decorations followed the theme of green, purple and white, the colours of International Women’s Day.

As a part of the celebrations the Canteen catered for brunch which took place in the pavilion and attracted a lot of attention. After lunch, Year 11 students went to see ‘Suffragette’ at the Mitcham Wallis Cinema. Afterwards they were asked what they thought of the movie and one student stated ‘It was very inspirational and made me want to take part in something a lot bigger than myself and make a difference in the world.’

Esther Burnett  |  11.02
**Whole School News**

**RYPEN**
The Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) is sponsored annually by Rotary clubs from District 9520. The Mitcham Rotary Club is willing to sponsor some Mitcham Girls High School students to attend this introductory leadership-development program for youth aged 14 to 17 years.

RYPEN provides a group of young people with an opportunity to develop valuable leadership skills. This weekend long program will see students engage with like-minded people, while having fun and learning new skills in areas such as problem solving and public speaking. On top of learning these skills, RYPEN will give students the chance to put these skills to practical use, through debate and physical activity.

**Date:** April 15 - 17 2016  
**Location:** Woodhouse Activity Centre

Applications are closing soon. More detailed information can be obtained at the following link:  
https://ryla9520.org.au/rypen/ or by contacting Alison Carter, Chair, Youth Service Mitcham Rotary Club at jupcarls@gmail.com.

**Liz Rogers | Science Teacher**

**2016 Materials and Services Charge**
Thank you to all our parents who have either paid or arranged payment options for their daughter’s 2016 school fees. This is a reminder that the Materials and Services Charge is to be paid in full by Friday 15 April 2016.

When making a payment to the school, choose from the following options:

- Cheque - made payable to Mitcham Girls High School
- Cash - in person
- EFTPOS - in person or over the phone
- Direct Debit payment plan through the school
- Bank SA (use the Family Code as identification)  
  Account Name: Mitcham Girls High School  
  BSB: 105 - 084  
  Account No: 323070240

If you have any questions regarding your daughter’s Materials and Services Charge please contact the Finance Office on 8272 8233 or email dl.0903.finance@schools.sa.edu.au.

**Entertainment Book**
Great news, selling for just $65! Pre-order your 2016 | 2017 Entertainment™ Membership from Mitcham Girls High School NOW! 20% of every membership sold goes towards the refurbishment of our Visual Arts Centre.

Entertainment™ Memberships are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best local restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more! Available as a traditional Entertainment™ Book OR Entertainment™ Digital Membership for your Apple or Android device, your Membership gives you over $20,000 worth of valuable offers valid through to 1 June 2017!

Tell your family and friends, as the more Memberships we sell, the more funds we’ll raise! Buy your new Membership now. Contact Mitcham Girls High School on 8272 8233 or visit the link to order via the secure online order page https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/161m056.

**Sue King | Finance Manager**
Come and join us for a FREE 10 week parenting program

4th May to 6th July 2016

Times: Wednesdays 2pm - 4.30pm and Fridays, 2pm - 4pm
Venue: Gowrie SA Children’s Programs Building
39a Dew Street, Thebarton

Gowrie SA’s Through the Looking Glass is a parenting support program designed to assist parents enhance the quality of relationships with their children and to gain support with their parenting challenges.

The group-based format includes therapeutic and educational components led by our experienced program facilitators.

Therapeutic group sessions on Wednesdays are combined with a 2 hour supported practice session for parents/caregivers and their children each Friday, providing participants with the opportunity to apply learning from the group sessions in a supported play environment with our program facilitators.

Key topics include:

- How to interpret and respond to your child’s behaviours
- How to help your child organise their feelings
- How to help your child feel secure in their relationships
- How to help your child engage more in play and learning
- How to manage your role as a parent when times are tough
- How to support your child in managing difficult behaviours e.g. tantrums, attention seeking, being clingy

Through the Looking Glass is suitable for parents/caregivers with children aged 0-5, and requires the commitment to attend all therapeutic and practice sessions for the ten weeks of the program. A free crèche is provided while parents/caregivers attend the therapeutic group session on Wednesday afternoons.

Families are welcome to self-refer to the program or can be referred by other service providers. Please feel free to contact us with any enquiries or to book in for the course.

For enquiries and bookings please contact:
Cecilia Ebert or Laura McCord
(t) 8234 5219 or
(e) ceciliae@gowriesa.org.au

“IT’S NEVER TOO LATE. AS WE ARE LEARNING NEW WAYS OF PARENTING, GOOD THINGS WILL HAPPEN FOR BOTH US AND OUR CHILDREN.”
Circle of Security Parenting

Gowrie
South Australia
www.gowriesa.org.au
facebook.com/gowriesa

The Department for Communities and Social Inclusions has contributed funds towards this project
Parenting Seminar
Dr Justin Coulson will be presenting the following seminars at the Adelaide Convention Centre:

- 7:00 - 9:00pm, Tuesday 5 April  ‘Toddlers and touchscreens: what should I do?’
- 7:00 - 9:00pm, Wednesday 6 April  ‘Children, teens and pornography: what every parent should know.’

Dr Coulson is a nationally recognised parenting researcher, author and speaker.

The seminars will also be webcast live for parents who are unable to attend in person or would prefer to view from home.

Bookings can be made online at http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au.

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M.A.D
Making A Difference
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH PARENTAL SEPARATION

JOIN US FOR FUN, FOOD AND GOOD CONVERSATION

EVERY TUESDAY FOR 4 WEEKS IN TERM 2, 2016
FROM 4.30 pm TO 6.30 pm

184 Port Road,
Hindmarsh SA 5007

For further information or registration, please call Amanda or Belinda on 8301 4200.

Cost is $30 per person, concessions available.

KidsAreFirst
This program is funded by the
Australian Government Department of Social Services

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What, When and Why No , Term  2016
Wellbeing Apps
Building skills for wellbeing and tracking emotional health is important in preventing or interrupting the progression of mental health difficulties. Any young person can benefit from building resilience and coping skills. These apps and online tools are designed to build better wellbeing skills and habits.

ReachOut Orb
(an interactive game)

1 Giant Mind
(Mindfulness medication app)

MiYo
(Wellbeing tracker)

Balanced
(Goal-setting app)

In Hand
(mood boosting app)

Juice
(Energy tracker)

The Check-In
(mobile app)

Life Charge
(Journaling app)

Happify
(positive psychology activities)

Appreciate a mate
(share positive affirmations)
## Counsellor Corner

**Online Websites**

A free, private and confidential, telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25.

**Headspace** – [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)
Links to eheadspace.org.au for free counselling, health advice, support and information for 12-25 year olds.

**Child and Youth Health** – [www.cyh.com](http://www.cyh.com)
Teen Health, Family breakdown - Practical health information for parents, carers and young people.

**Reach Out** – [www.reachout.com](http://www.reachout.com)
A website to assist teenagers with everyday questions through the tough times they may be enduring.

**Divorce and Teens** – [www.divorceandteens.weebly.com](http://www.divorceandteens.weebly.com).
A website created by teenagers, for teenagers experiencing parental separation covering a variety of topics from coping strategies, stories from other teenagers and general advice.

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**Jill Olifent** | Student Counsellor and VET Co-ordinator

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### Diary Dates

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