

What, When & Why

@ Mitcham Girls High School

No 3, Friday 30 March 2012, Term 1

From the Principal...

Dear Families,

Another busy term is drawing to a close. All staff have been extremely busy with camps, Year 8 parent meetings, Swimming Carnival, Sports Day, International Women's Day, Harmony Day and primary school visits.

Teaching and learning, however, is always on the top of our agenda and the students are constantly encouraged to work hard and to perform at the highest possible level for them.

This year we have made Professional Learning another one of our priorities (see Site Improvement Plan 2012). Every Wednesday afternoon, staff divide into three communities (also referred to as Professional Learning Communities or PLCs) and together they debate/discuss educational issues and plan curriculum that engages and supports students in their learning.

You would be aware that by 2013 all schools are expected to introduce The Australian Curriculum at Year 8 level in English, Mathematics, Science and History and all states and territories have committed to work together to develop an Australian Curriculum which is not only portable from state to state and territory, but also rigorous and engaging.

To support schools in this development the Minister for Education and Child Development, the Honourable Grace Portolesi, has granted two extra student free days. We held our first student free day on 13 March. On this day we focussed on the Australian Curriculum and staff were thankful for the quality time available to them to work on this new initiative. Our next student free day will be held on Friday 8 June.

Reports: What Do You Think?

You will notice that the report your daughter will bring home at the end of this term is different to those you have received in the past. Our aim is always to improve communication between school and home and we believe that the current format is more user-friendly and informative.

Many parents have told us they would like to have teacher comments in our reports. We are addressing this issue and our reports will have comments in Term 3. We didn't quite make it this time around. In future, however, you can expect the following:

- Term 1: Grades and comments for Years 8-12
- Term 2: Grades only for Years 8-11; Grades and comments for Year 12
- Term 3: Grades and comments for Years 8-11; Grades only for Year 12
- Term 4: Grades only for Years 8-11

You may want to send us an email and give us feedback on the new reporting format. In Term 3, once you have received a report with comments we will ask for your feedback, through a questionnaire, on the new reporting system.

Kyre Ave
KINGSWOOD SA
P 8272 8233
F 8373 3013

www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au
info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Parent / Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday 26 April (Term 2, week 1). Teachers will be available between 3:30pm and 8:00pm. A letter was sent home today outlining the on line booking process. Interview booking times can be booked on line from Monday 2 April.

Simply go to www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au and click on the Parent/Teacher Interview link. It is a very simple process and there are clear instructions to guide you. If you do not have access to the internet, please ring Jenni Stewart and she will make the appointment for you. If you are unable to attend an interview with one of your daughter's teachers, please feel free to make contact via email.

News from Governing Council

The Annual General Meeting of the Mitcham Girls High School Governing Council was held on 5 March. The parents listed below have been elected to the Council. Should you wish to voice your opinion on some general school matters please send an email to Jenni Stewart (secretary) who will pass it on to the chair. Specific concerns about your daughter should be dealt with in the usual manner. Please email the relevant teacher and send a copy of the email to the subject coordinator or the Year Level Manager in the first instance.

Parents elected to the Council for the next two years:

Gilbert Dashorst
Jenni Stewart
Carolyn Black

Cynthia Goldsworthy
Sarah Quihampton
Tania Sutton

Megan Wright
Corinne Shirra
Lynn Smith

Continuing parents elected in 2011:

Jeremy Davidson-Tear
Grant Cox

Robyn Hayes
Ilona Double

Paula Mitchell

Open Day: Monday 7 May, 9:00-11:00am & 5:30- 8:00pm

This is another important event on our calendar. If you are aware of any families who may be looking for a school for their daughter, please encourage them to attend our Open Day.



The poster features a photograph of two young girls in school uniforms on the left. The text on the right includes the school name, a tagline, the event details, and contact information. At the bottom, there are logos for CRICOS, the Government of South Australia, and the Department for Education and Child Development.

OPEN DAY

MITCHAM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

A professional, progressive learning community dedicated to providing outstanding educational opportunities for girls

OPEN DAY
MONDAY 7 MAY 2012

9:00 - 11:00am & 5:30 - 8:00pm
Kyre Avenue, Kingswood SA 5062
Ph: 8272 8233

info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au
www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au

CRICOS provider number: 00018A

Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development

Year 12 Holiday Lessons

Year 12 teachers will be running holiday lessons. Please encourage your daughter to attend as these have proven to be extremely valuable in the past. The timetable is on the home page of our website.

Regards,
Antoinette Jones



Mitcham Girls High School

Site Improvement Plan 2012

(ABRIDGED VERSION)

Priority 1: CIS Accreditation

Address special issues as recommended by CIS:

- 1.1 *Articulation of responsibilities for curriculum development*
- 1.2 *Curriculum documentation*
- 1.3 *Planned professional development*

Priority 2: Implementation of New Curriculum Developments

- 2.1 *Numeracy for learning*
- 2.2 *Engagement for Learning (Curriculum Development)*
- 2.3 *Leadership for Learning (Professional Learning)*
- 2.4 *Consolidation of Performance and Development processes*

Priority 3: Development of Information and Communication Technology

- 3.1 *Continue with development of on line curriculum and resources*
- 3.2 *Increased/planned use of technology in classroom*
- 3.3 *Introduction of LearnLink*
- 3.4 *Increased access to digital resources*

Priority 4: Development of Physical Resources

- 4.1 *Move forward with the development of the new Visual Arts/Dance Centre (subject to funding)*
- 4.2 *Improve working conditions for students and staff. (Heating and cooling, skirting around pool, window furnishings, data projectors)*

Priority 5: Improve Partnerships between School and Home

- 5.1 *Increase parental involvement in school activities*
- 5.2 *Increase communication between home and school*
- 5.2 *Increase parent voice*

Harmony Day

On Wednesday 21 March, Mitcham Girls celebrated Harmony Day with an assembly and a range of activities. The Whole School Assembly was run by a group of senior students who shared their cultural identity and discussed the themes behind Harmony Day.

A group of five students – Nibir Chowdhury, Mia Neale, Runa Hong, Hawa Nagbe and Mamusu Nyande – reported back on an education session called “Diversity Matters” run by Relationships Australia, which they attended earlier in the term. In their speech, followed by a power point presentation, they challenged the ideas of being normal and broke down stereotypes. They also encouraged students ‘not to judge a book by its cover’ and to ‘take a walk in someone else’s shoes’ on Harmony Day and every day.

The main message of this assembly was to recognise that we are all individuals with different appearances, we have different ways of expressing our personalities, we come from different cultural backgrounds, but we are also all Mitcham girls.

The assembly ended with an activity run by Mr Kerr where students threaded swing tags decorated with messages of Harmony onto strips of orange fabric. This created a great visual display of every student’s commitment to Harmony Day.

A range of activities such as the ‘earth ball’ game and henna tattooing were arranged at lunch time for students to participate in and gain more knowledge about the significance of the day. The Year 12 students sold orange cupcakes and other orange-coloured food as a symbol of Harmony, raising money for charities in need. These activities encouraged the students to experience the feeling of harmony and recognise that we are all ‘as one’. The day was an overall success with the students communicating a great outlook on Harmony Day.

Laura Harvey



Science News

Flinders University, Faculty of Science and Engineering Outreach and Development Program

The Flinders University is holding an **Information Evening for Parents** on **Wednesday 4 April from 5:30pm**. The night is designed to provide parents and families with helpful, practical tips on supporting students in Years 10, 11, and 12 with a particular focus on providing support across the areas of science and maths.

The night will feature guest speakers covering a wide range of practical topics and refreshments will be provided. Places for this free evening are strictly limited and bookings are essential. For more information and to reserve a seat please visit: <http://www.flinders.edu.au/events/show/event/parents-information-evening-science-and-maths> and complete the online application form or call 08 7221 8661.

Stage 2 Biology Excursion

On Thursday 15 March the Stage 2 Biology class made their way to the Education Building in Hindmarsh to participate in a DNA / Genetic Engineering Workshop. The 2½ hour session covered the practical side of this section of the course where the girls were able to take genes for salt tolerance and place them into bacterial cell plasmids to produce lots of these genes. These could then be taken up by specific crop cells to produce salt resistant plants, which is something Australia will need in the future. DNA fingerprinting was also practiced by all.



Anna Cullen
Biology Teacher

Year 9 Camp

Calling All Parents of Year 9 Girls

Want some peace and quiet? The Year 9 Woodhouse camp is in Term 2 week 2. It is a great 3 day camp either Monday to Wednesday or Wednesday to Friday. The girls will join in many activities to challenge them, build team work and to simply enjoy the camaraderie.

A deposit of \$100.00 needs to be paid by Wednesday 4 April (end of Term 1) with the remaining \$80.00 to be paid by Thursday 26 April (Term 2 week 1). Monies can be paid to the Finance Office.

Anna Cullen
Year 9 Manager

Maths – Graphic Calculators *for sale*

\$5 Graphic Calculators

A good number of old Sharp and Hewlett Packard Graphic calculators, which can also be simply used as a scientific calculator, are up for grabs from the Mathematics Department for only \$5.00. Please be aware that batteries are not included and that the calculators will not be functional for any Year 12 Maths subjects, though they work perfectly for Years 8-11. If you would like to purchase one, send your daughter to visit the Maths Office at any time in the coming weeks.

Alex Bambrough
Maths Coordinator

NAPLaN Tests

Parents/Caregivers of Year 9 students are reminded that NAPLaN tests will be held in Term 2 week 4: Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 May.

Five tests are conducted: Language Conventions, Writing, Reading, Numeracy with calculators and Numeracy without calculators. Please ensure students have a calculator for the Numeracy test as the school has a limited supply.

The school administers the tests under strict confidentiality guidelines and results are made available to students and Parents/Caregivers in print as soon as they are delivered to the school. Parents/Caregivers are entitled to withdraw their students from the test on philosophical or personal reasons. If you would like to discuss any of the above please contact Marcus Kerr at the school on 8272 8233.

Marcus Kerr
Senior Leader Middle School

VET / CAREERS

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Courses detailed below for Years 10, 11 and 12 students. Gain SACE credits at the same time as gaining accreditation in industry. Applications for Semester 2 are now open!! Some courses fill quickly, so get in quick.

Short Courses: Barista, Bar and Cocktail, RSA
Holiday courses: Food and Beverage, Hairdressing, Hospitality

Semester or Year Long Courses

Aged Care, Agriculture, Animal Studies, Architectural Drafting, Automotive, Business, Children's Services, Construction, Driver Education, Electronics, Event Management, Fibre, Fashion and Colour, Fitness, Graphic Design, Digital Animation, Hairdressing, Hair/Make Up, Health and Community Services, Hospitality, Info Tech, Kitchen Operations, Interior Design, Make Up, Massage, Music-Band Management, Sound and Lighting, Studio Recording, Metal Engineering, Nursing Introduction, Pharmacy, Digital Photography, Retail, Science and Technology, Stablehand, Sport and Rec, Sport Coaching, Tourism.

For further information visit www.inap.org.au or carrickeducation.edu.au or qualitylincs.com.au and/or make an appointment to see me.

Junior Nanny Course in the April school holidays: For details www.enhancetraining.org.

Tertiary Information: Events to Attend - Year 11 and 12 students

UniSA Careers and Employment Expo

Wednesday 21 March (11:00am-3:00pm)
Adelaide Convention Centre
Free Admission

Tertiary Studies and Career Expo

Sunday 29 April (10:00am-4:00pm) and Monday 30 April (9:30am-1:30pm)
Adelaide Convention Centre
Free Admission

The National Careers and Employment Expo

Friday 18 May (9:00am-4:00pm) and Saturday 19 May (10:00am-3:00pm)
Jubilee Pavilion, Adelaide Showgrounds

Bond University - Investing in your Future

Date: Thursday 31 May
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: TBA

Open Days

Flinders University: 17 and 18 August
University of South Australia: 19 August (9:00am - 4:30pm)
Adelaide University: TBA
TafeSA: TBA

Any **Year 10, 11 or 12 students** wishing to discuss career options, VET choices, career pathways and general career advice please make an appointment to see me.

City of Marion Library Service: FREE Adult Programs

Confident Parenting

What kind of parent do you want to be? There is no right way to raise children. There is only your way done with love and care. Define how you want to raise your children and raise your confidence. Presented by Parent Wellbeing.

Date: Tuesday 1 May
Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Cost: FREE!
Where: Marion Cultural Centre - Sturt Room, 287 Diagonal Road, Oaklands Park
Phone: 8375 6855 - bookings essential

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 the older, wiser person and a younger person who is still learning about how the world operates.

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, please make contact with Jill Olifent (Counsellor) on 8272 8233 or jill.olifent@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au or encourage your daughter to come and see me.

2012 Job Guide

The 2012 Job Guide will be distributed to all Year 10 students. This is available on the curriculum network (Common/jobguide 2012) plus it is located on www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au.

Jill Olifent
Student Counsellor and VET Coordinator

Diary Dates

March	Friday 30 Friday 30	Sports Day 9:00am – 3:15pm WWW Published
April	Wednesday 4 Thursday 5 Monday 23 Thursday 26 Monday 30 – Friday 4 May Monday 30	Year 10 Risky Business End Term 1 Reports Distributed 3:10pm Term 2 Begins Parent / Teacher Interviews 3:30 – 8:00pm Year 9 Camps Governing Council 7:00pm
May	Monday 7 Friday 11 Monday 14 – Thursday 17 Tuesday 22 Wednesday 23 – Friday 25 Tuesday 29 Wednesday 30 Thursday 31	OPEN DAY / NIGHT 9:00 - 11:00am & 5:30 – 8:00pm WWW Published Year 9 NAPLaN Tests Principal's Tour 9:15am Year 10 SHIP Camp Years 8 & 9 Immunisations Year 12 Drama Production 7:00pm PAC Year 12 Drama Production 7:00pm PAC
June	Friday 1 Monday 4 Tuesday 5 Friday 8 Monday 11 Tuesday 12 – Friday 15 Wednesday 13 – Thursday 14 Friday 15 Monday 18 Friday 22 Friday 29 Friday 29	WWW Published Governing Council 7:00pm Music Showcase 7:00pm Student Free Day Public Holiday Years 10 & 11 Exam Week Stage 2 Retreat Semester 1 Ends Semester 2 Begins WWW Published Year 11 Reflection Day End Term 2 Reports Distributed 3:10pm