

## What, When & Why

@ Mitcham Girls High School

No 4, Friday 20 May, Term 2 2011

From the Principal...

### **ATTENTION: ALL PARENTS !!!**

#### **CYBER SAFETY HELP BUTTON**

The Federal Government realises the importance of cyber safety for young people. At Mitcham Girls High School we are currently working on a comprehensive Cyber Safety Program to ensure our students have the knowledge to act safely in an on-line environment.

As part of this initiative, the government has made available to schools and families some cyber safety software designed to provide young people with immediate on-line access to cyber safety information and assistance.

It provides counselling, reporting and educational resources designed to assist young people in dealing with on-line risks including cyber bullying, unwanted contact, scams and frauds and offensive and inappropriate material.

Mitcham Girls High School is making the Cyber Safety Help Button available on the school's curriculum network and the same software is available for families to download on to personal computers.

To access this free application visit the Department's website at [www.dbcde.gov.au/helpbutton](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/helpbutton). We encourage all families to access this software and work with us to minimise risks associated with on-line forums and social networking sites.

**Tony Sims**  
Deputy Principal

Kyre Ave  
KINGSWOOD SA  
P 8272 8233  
F 8373 3013

[www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au](http://www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au)  
[info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au](mailto:info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au)

Dear Families,

As reported in the last newsletter, Penny Tranter won a position as Principal at Seaview High School until the end of the year. Consequently our leadership group has changed:

- Mr Tony Sims has won the position of Deputy Principal.
- Ms Anne Carpenter has won the position of Assistant Principal.
- Vanessa Cole has won the position of Year 8 Manager.

Ms Howlett and Ms Hirsch-Brown are both on long service leave, creating the following changes for Term 2:

- Ms Holmes has won the position of Student Counsellor.
- Ms Ozolins is SACE Manager.
- Ms Naughton is Year 12 Manager.

We also have Mr Ian Brown teaching French and Ms Tiffany Lynch teaching the Research Project.

Please be aware that I will be on long service leave from 15 June until 8 July. Tony Sims will be Principal in my absence.

### **Uniform**

It seems that our strong stance on students wearing appropriate, safe shoes has paid off. Nearly 100% of students are now wearing one of the three styles we have identified as our "uniform" shoes. Thanks to all of you for supporting us on this.

I now ask you that you support the school on another issue. While the majority of girls look extremely smart in their uniform, we have a small number of girls whose skirts or dresses are far too short. The Uniform Committee, which includes SRC members, has stipulated that skirts and dresses should not be any shorter than one palm width above the knee.

Students, whose skirts are too short, have this term to attend to this and they will be reminded constantly to let the hem down if possible or think about buying another one. Next term students will be given a consequence if they do not comply with this policy.

### **Recognition Ceremony**

The official opening of the Science Labs and Pavilion took place last Wednesday. The Honourable Senator Don Farrell officiated on behalf of the Federal Government. The ceremony was organised by a group of Governing Council representatives.

We thank Marcia Evans, Liesl von der Borch, Jenni Stewart, Cynthia Goldsworthy and Sarah Quihampton for their outstanding organisation and support.

The speech given by the President of the SRC on such occasion follows on the next page.

### **Special Events**

Open Day was a huge success for us. We had almost 1,000 people through the school. We also had about 200 students who supported the school in some way.

As usual, our students are always our best ambassadors and I thank all parents who made the effort to pick up their daughters late at night. We were also appreciative of the fact that some members of the Governing Council were present on Open Day and were able to talk to prospective parents about our school. We thank Jenni Stewart, Marcia Evans, Gillian Phillips and Paula Mitchell.

**Antoinette Jones**  
Principal

## **RECOGNITION CEREMONY – SPEECH BY SRC PRESIDENT, KASHAF AHMED**

Good Morning Everyone,

It is my great pleasure, as the President of the Student Representative Council of Mitcham Girls High School, to be able to speak on behalf of the students this morning.

The pavilion has been a wonderful addition to our school grounds. We use it for shelter and as a meeting place. The students admire and express their appreciation and we have used our new pavilion for various school celebrations.

The pavilion represents years of hard work and also the beginning of an era of Mitcham Girls High School. It embodies the value we place on our supportive community, as it offers the chance to meet, celebrate and learn together.

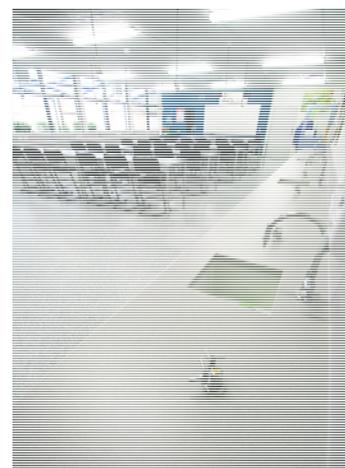
Equally, it has been fantastic to have such modern and workable laboratories for our studies in the area of Science. It is through having facilities of a high quality that we can ensure our best learning and further our understanding of the world around us. With the recent UN conference on the status of women discussing how to encourage more females to become interested in science, our new labs signify not only a fantastic resource, but also a commitment for our community to improve women's rights.

It is clear that this has been money well spent.

Many thanks go out to all those who were involved in funding, planning and finally constructing the new areas. They will endure and be enjoyed not just by the current students but also those of the future.

As our world rapidly changes we must also work hard to upgrade our resources. It is clear that many people in our community have done this and have achieved great things for our school. Mitcham is more than a school, it is also a support network dedicated to helping young women succeed. These resources will help this network and school. Once again on behalf of the students, I would like to thank all those who have made it possible.

**Kashaf Ahmad**



## SCIENCE NEWS

### Year 11 National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)

In January 2012 there is a 12 day program that enables participants - students about to start their final year of high school – to “test drive” and make informed decisions about courses and careers in science.

Participants gain an insider’s view of campus life and how university study connects with careers. Workshops, laboratory visits and field trips provide hands-on experience in real projects with top research scientists and engineers from industry and major research institutions. Above all, the students build friendship links and networks that will continue through their studies and far into their later professional and personal lives! They are guaranteed a rich experience of the widest arrays of science and engineering in the country.

Further information (including the 2012 NYSF Program Guide and Application Form) is available online at: <http://www.nysf.edu.au/applying> and from your teachers. **HURRY applications close on 31 MAY!**

### Year 10 Chemical Murder Mystery

This mock “murder” will occur at Flinders University on Thursday 7th July. The students will be involved in forensic experiments to solve this investigation. Interested students need to return their consent form and \$15 quickly because, unfortunately, only the first twenty students can participate.

### Year 10 South Australian Space School 2011

There is a three day residential conference from Wednesday 13 July – Friday 15 July 2011. The Centre for Australian Space Education (CASE) invites applications for the 15th annual residential South Australian Space School.

Students at the SA Space School will be accommodated at the RAH Residential Wing and will:

- Take part in science investigations including building and launching model rockets at Hamilton Secondary College.
- Perform experiments and watch demonstrations in the University of Adelaide Physics Laboratories.
- Visit the Defence Science & Technology Organisation.
- Hear inspiring talks about careers in space science, physics, engineering, life sciences and much more. Guest speakers in 2010 included an Australian working at NASA in planetary science and an Australian neuroscientist who was a finalist for selection in the European Space Agency’s astronaut corps
- Visit the RAAF Air Base at Edinburgh and be escorted by pilots through various testing facilities and aircraft.
- Visit the Planetarium at the University of SA.
- Visit PIPEHENGE.
- Have a great time, and of course, make many new friends!

Graduates of the SA Space School have also been given opportunities to engage in work experience with the RAAF, Flinders University, Adelaide University and the DSTO. Some of our graduates have won scholarships to attend international space camps in the USA and Europe in following years.

The conference will be supervised by female and male South Australian science teachers and scientists/engineers who will reside with the students at the RAH Residential Wing.

The \$70 registration fee includes all meals and transport during SASS, printed materials, SASS windcheater, folder, a large souvenir group photograph and two nights’ accommodation. Only 40 students will be selected. It is expected that equal numbers of males and females will attend. Applicants must be students in Year 10 during 2011.

**Hurry! Applications due by Friday 27 May 2011.** Application forms available online [www.spaceschool.com](http://www.spaceschool.com) and from your teacher.

## SCIENCE NEWS (cont)

### Science Engineering Challenge

A large group of Year 10 students enjoyed participating in a challenge at Flinders University. They came 4<sup>th</sup>. Well done girls!



**Helen Marussinszky**  
Science Coordinator

### My Experience with the Australian Space School

During the last school holidays I was lucky enough to be one of the 16 Australian students selected from around Australia to travel to Houston, Texas, to take part in the 11 day NASA Engineering School run by the Young Astronauts Australia.

While in Houston we were involved in a range of space related activities including building a functioning rover, a Mars Lander and a two stage rocket. We were also lucky enough to go on a level 9 tour where we were shown a Saturn 5 rocket which was the same model as the one sent to the moon. We also saw the Flight Director of the International Space Station who is basically the head of mission control in Houston.

While we were there we also got to participate in a scuba diving activity where we had to build a mock airlock under water in the least amount of time possible and one of our teams actually managed to break the world record for this activity by about 3 minutes. Another highlight of this section of the trip was being able to speak to some of the experts at NASA including Heather Paul, a mechanical engineer who works developing the next generation of space suit and Richard Scheuring, a flight surgeon who works with many of the astronauts after they return from the Space Station. The biggest highlight, however, was getting the opportunity to speak with retired astronaut Scott Parazynski. During his career Scott went on five missions and completed seven space walks.

After leaving Houston we travelled to Orlando to see the last ever launch of the space shuttle Endeavour which was unfortunately cancelled but we still went to the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral where the majority of missions are launched. While we were in Florida we also got to spend a day at Disney World which was another amazing experience.

Going on this trip has been one of the best experiences of my life and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in anything related to science as it opens so many doors and gives you many friends and connections that will last a lifetime. This trip is open to anyone over 15 so if you are interested in going next year speak to me or Mrs. M and we can give you all the information.

**Amy Robertson**  
11.31

## CONGRATULATIONS !

Congratulations to Rose Harvey (10.45) who has been selected by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange to participate in their student exchange program to France beginning September 2011 for five months. As part of her exchange, she will live with a volunteer host family and attend the local school.



## SPORTS NEWS

### Sports Day 2011

The Mitcham Girls High School Sports Day was held in perfect conditions on Friday 8th April (Week 10). Thanks to a great effort by all staff and students the day was a big success with many great races and events throughout the day.

The inter-house competition was closely fought all day. However, Fraser was able to capitalise on a great effort in the senior novelty events, including the softball throw, netball shoot and cricket accuracy events, to win the Senior Championship (Years 10, 11 and 12) ahead of Mitchell and Spence.

The juniors from Spence were also able to take advantage of the many novelty events to gain the upper hand and win the Junior Championship (Years 8 and 9) once again ahead of Mitchell with Fraser third.

The superior effort by the senior Fraser competitors was enough, however, to ensure their house won the Overall Championship with Mitchell taking second and Spence, despite the win by their junior team, in third place.

House	Junior	Senior	Overall
<b>FRASER</b>	<b>825 (3)</b>	<b>1,311 (1)</b>	<b>2,135 (1)</b>
<b>MITCHELL</b>	<b>833 (2)</b>	<b>1,107 (2)</b>	<b>1,940 (2)</b>
<b>SPENCE</b>	<b>916 (1)</b>	<b>950 (3)</b>	<b>1,865 (3)</b>

Once again, a big thank you to the many staff who assisted in making the day run smoothly and to all the students who made this years sports day a very colourful and exciting event.



## **SPORTS NEWS (cont)**

### **Surf Coaching Day 2011**

A group of Mitcham Girls High School students made the trek 'down the coast' to Moana on Thursday of Week 11, Term 1. Even though the weather was overcast and cool, the water was warm and the girls had a great day. There were some excellent skills on show with some of the girls able to consistently stand up and surf the waves to the beach. There were also some excellent wipe outs in the small surf which kept everyone entertained throughout the day.

#### *Girls Surfing Participants:*

Addie Benson

Alana White

Madeline Wray

Abbey Holland

Chante Williams

Helen Smith

Danielle Hutton

Tori Pavlovich

Charlotte Holland

Leah Sandeman

Anja Vivian-Fryer

Bree Richards

Isabella Dashorst

Rachael Hewlett

Lucy George

Meg Kinniburgh

Heather McLoughlin

**Chad Alston**  
Sports Assistant



## **MATHS NEWS**

### **Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) - 4 August 2011**

The AMC is one of the largest competitions of its kind in the world! It is for students of all standards and all year levels (Years 8 to 12). Last year a very high number of our students participated in this competition with outstanding results. We would like to further improve the number of participants this year! The entry fee for this competition is \$5.00 which is payable to the Finance Office as soon as possible.

Please support and encourage your daughter/s to take part in this prestigious opportunity that occurs only once a year. For more information please contact me at the School.

**Terry Dalkos**  
Maths Coordinator

## **THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA**

***If you ever thought your parents were strict, think again !!!***

The five daughters of Bernarda Alba are trapped by their mother's strict control. What is worse is that they must spend the next eight years mourning the death of their father.

As the youngest daughter rebels against her mother and society tensions arise between family members. Filled with sexual desire this play shows the consequences of disobeying your mother.

Mitcham Girls High School presents ***The House of Bernarda Alba***.

Date: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Time: 6:45pm (doors open)

Prices: Concession: \$8.50      Adult: \$10.00      Family: (2 adults + 2 concession): \$30.00

Tickets on sale Friday week 3, available at the Finance Office.

**Ali Rosenthal**  
Drama Teacher

## **FOCUS ON THE FAMILY**

On 15 May people around the world celebrated the United Nations International Day of Families. Held every year since 1995, the day celebrates the importance of families and acknowledges the importance that the international community places on families as the most fundamental units of society. It is also an opportunity to draw attention to the plight of families in many parts of the world.

In Australia we have taken it a step further by incorporating National Family Week which runs from 15 to 21 May. The theme for this year is "Sticking together: families in good and tough times".

The aim of National Families Week 2011 is to encourage everyone to think about the things that make their family strong - in both the good times and the tough times - whatever their circumstances. I think it's a really worthwhile theme and one that we should all take time to think about.

All too often we take our families for granted, or maybe sometimes we even wish that we had a different family and yet our families are our foundations and in many cases it's our families who play the biggest role in shaping us into who we are.

It's important to remember that in 2011 families might look different to families of the past. Today's families are a myriad of combinations and they are all worth valuing and celebrating. It's also good to remember that every family has strengths and weaknesses and sometimes it is when families are at their weakest that their strengths are most visible.

I encourage you to take some time this week to think about your own family and the kind of foundation you're building. And remember – as Ben Lee sings "we're all in this together"...whether people choose to have a family of their own or not, everyone is born into a family. As Atticus says in 'To Kill a Mockingbird', "You can choose your friends but you sho' can't choose your family, an' they're still kin to you no matter whether you acknowledge 'em or not"...

This Families Week let's acknowledge the strengths of our families and also explore ways we can support each other - in our families and communities - through all the ups and downs of life.

**Bek Brown**  
CPSW

## **TYPICAL TEENAGER !**

Are you feeling frustrated because you only get bits of information ..., just the bits your teenager wants you to know?

The Effective Living Centre offers courses that might be a way of affirming what you are already doing or giving you some new strategies. You might like some new connections! Take a look at their website [www.effectiveliving.org](http://www.effectiveliving.org).

Centrecare also offer courses – What’s in the mix for our teen girls? And exploration of the stages of development and needs of teenage girls and what this means for parents. Contact the Centre on 8210 8200 for further details.

### **Effective Living Workshops - Developing Resilience, Wednesday, 22 June, 7:30-9:30pm.**

Children have to deal with negative experiences; failure, rejection, loss, illness. Discover how parents can be most effective in helping their child deal with these life events.

Cost: \$15 / \$10 con. / \$20 per couple  
Bookings: 8271 0329 or [office@effectiveliving.org](mailto:office@effectiveliving.org)

## **CAREERS & PATHWAYS**

If you need to expand your thinking about possible careers and pathways ..... maybe your child has no idea where their future lies. The National Careers and Employment Expo is being held in the Jubilee Pavilion at the Adelaide Showgrounds from 20 to 21 May, Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Visit [www.eocexpo.com.au](http://www.eocexpo.com.au) or phone 1300 667 121 for more information. Entry is free.

**Kaye Naughton**  
Student Counsellor

## **FUNDRAISING NEWS**

### **Cookie Dough Fundraiser**

Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser. We sold 232 tubs of cookie dough and raised a total of \$1,124.00. A special mention to those families who took order forms to their work place, friends and families. Your support is appreciated. The proceeds will go towards the Quadrangle Redevelopment Plan. Happy baking!

### **Future Fundraising**

At MGHS we recognise that our school families have a collective wealth of knowledge, experience and skills. The Fundraising Committee is keen to know of other fundraising ideas that you might have. Things that have been successful at other organisations and schools. You can email these to the school along with any feedback you have on past fundraising events to [info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au](mailto:info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au).

**Ruth Cox**  
Fundraising Committee

## **SCHOOL AEROBICS PRELIMINARY FINALS**

School Aerobics Preliminary Finals will be held at Westminster School, Marion, on Saturday 4 June. We have two teams competing: Open B Aerobics and Senior Hip-Hop. The times our students will be on stage are yet to be announced. Tickets are available at the door. Come along and support our girls on the day.

**Vashti Carman**  
Dance Teacher

<b>Diary Dates</b>		
<b>May</b>	<b>Thursday 26</b> <b>Tuesday 31</b>	Principal's Tour 9:15am Principal's Tour 9:15am
<b>June</b>	<b>Wednesday 1</b> <b>Thursday 2</b> <b>Thursday 2</b> <b>Thursday 9</b> <b>Thursday 9</b> <b>Friday 10</b> <b>Monday 13</b> <b>Tuesday 14</b> <b>Monday 20 – Friday 24</b> <b>Monday 20</b> <b>Friday 24</b> <b>Monday 27</b> <b>Monday 27</b> <b>Monday 27 – Friday 1 July</b>	Year 12 Drama Performance 7:00pm Year 12 Drama Performance Exam 7:00pm Casual Day Years 8 & 9 Immunisations Stage 2 Maths Apps Exam WWW Published <b>Queen's Birthday Public Holiday</b> <b>Student Free Day</b> Years 10 & 11 Exam Week Governing Council 7:00pm <b>Semester 1 Ends</b> Semester 2 Begins Year 12 Music Night 7:00pm Year 9 Camps
<b>July</b>	<b>Friday 1</b> <b>Tuesday 5</b> <b>Wednesday 6 – Thursday 7</b> <b>Friday 8</b> <b>Friday 8</b> <b>Monday 11 – Friday 22</b>	WWW Published Years 10, 11 & 12 Dance Night 7:00pm Year 12 Retreat Year 11 Reflection Day <b>End of Term 2</b> – Reports distributed 3:10pm Year 12 Holiday Lessons