

What, When & Why

@ Mitcham Girls High School

No 6, Friday 22 June 2012, Term 2

From the Principal...

Dear Families,

We have had one of the most productive terms as far as teaching and learning is concerned. Our students kept on working extremely hard and their code of conduct, as always, has been exemplary. It is certainly a privilege to be teaching at Mitcham in an environment that is collaborative, cooperative and respectful. Almost every day I am told by students how proud they are of their school.

Once again we have managed to incorporate an extensive range of co-learning activities in our teaching and learning programs: Year 9 Camp, Open Day/Night, NAPLAN tests, SHIP camp, Drama production, Music Showcase, various competitions, Year 10 and 11 exams, Year 12 Retreat and Year 11 Reflection Day; not to mention the many excursions and off-site programs which our teachers run as part of their courses.

I would like to thank all teachers and parents for supporting these activities which students find very enriching and supportive of their learning.

Another activity our teachers support is the "holiday courses". Most Year 12 teachers run holiday lessons either in the first week or second week of the holidays. The holiday timetable is on our website and we urge all students to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity which, at our school, is free of charge.

On the last day of term (29 June) all students will be issued with their reports. I know you will take time to congratulate your daughter on her achievements and encourage her to work even harder next term – continuous improvement should be everyone's goal.

This term, the Year 12 students will have comments on their reports, while other years levels will have a grade. In Term 3 all reports will have comments.

As you would be aware, we have adopted this new reporting system to provide parents with extra information while at the same time ensuring that teachers did not need to spend an inordinate amount of time writing comments.

Students certainly like the new format. In Term 4 we will ask parents to give us feedback on this new system.

On 15 June, Mr Ray Davis, CIS Regional Accreditation Officer, spent a day at Mitcham assessing work we have done on curriculum development. He was certainly overwhelmed by the progress we had made in 12 months. He will send a report to the CIS Board and we will be advised in due course whether the school will be granted accreditation or not.

I thank you all for your continuing support and wish you all a very restful holiday.

Regards,

Antoinette Jones

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Sports Day 2012

The Mitcham Girls High School Sports Day saw Term 1 out with a spectacular bang on Friday 30 March (Week 10). It was an exciting and colourful day and was made possible by the involvement of staff, students and parents. It was a day of great energy, competition and cheer with many great races and events throughout the day.

The day began with a sunny morning of Frisbie, Soccer, Volleyball and Netball. It was fast paced and competitive and the girls were all off to a good start. This was followed by the Senior Theatre Sports Competition held at lunch. The girls had their audience in fits of laughter with their creative quips. Spence won the competition with a score of 20 points, with Mitchell close behind on 19 points and Fraser on 14 points.

The girls were well fed throughout the day with delicious energy packed delights from Ms Tsoukalas's Stage 2 Food and Hospitality class. They whipped up a storm of treats that kept everyone involved happy and nourished! Thanks girls.

After lunch the girls were straight back on the oval with enthusiasm for the Novelty Events. These were popular with all the girls and proved a great way to win points for their teams. Tug of War, 3 Legged Race, Balloon Relay, Tunnel Ball, Sack Race and Geeta Boards were a fun and valuable part of the competition.

The enthusiasm and energy grew as the day went on with the Sprint Relays. This was a real highlight of the day and we saw the competition step up a level. It was fiercely and closely fought all day. The juniors from Fraser won many of the novelty events to gain the upper hand and win the Junior Championship (Years 8 and 9) by 149 points, ahead of Mitchell, with Fraser close behind in 3rd place. Mitchell fought hard in their senior events to take 1st place by 23 points over Fraser and Spence not far behind.

The overall effort by **Fraser** competitors was enough to ensure their house won the Overall Championship by 164 points with Mitchell taking 2nd place and Spence close behind in 3rd place. **Congratulations Fraser !**

House	Junior	Senior	Overall
FRASER	1,085 (1 st)	1,148 (2 nd)	2,233 (1 st)
MITCHELL	936 (2 nd)	1,171 (1 st)	2,107 (2 nd)
SPENCE	725 (3 rd)	1,003 (3 rd)	1,728 (3 rd)

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 year's Sports Day a very colourful and exciting event. The school was transformed into a vibrant sea of red, yellow and blue and there were some very creative costumes to be seen!

Coles Sports for Schools Promotion

Once again we have registered to participate in the Sports for Schools Promotion with Coles Supermarkets to acquire sporting equipment for the students to use.

If you are shopping at Coles and you are asked if you would like the vouchers please say "yes" and send them to school with your daughter. There are several collection boxes located around the school.

Emily Banks
Sports Assistant



SPORTS DAY



Reconciliation Week

"On Friday 1 June 2012 Ms Harvey's Year 8 English class went to Unley Town Hall to celebrate Reconciliation Week. There was an event held there called a 'Welcome to Country' ceremony. It was held to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture and history and to walk the path of reconciliation. We travelled by bus. When we arrived the following schools were also there to celebrate: Unley High School, Unley Primary School, Urrbrae and Goodwood Primary School.

We saw the Mayor of Unley, the host of the event Matthew Ives, and the storyteller John Packham. John first introduced himself and then started to pick students for his characters for the story he was going to tell. The story was a creation about how the whale has a hole in its back and he talked about other birds like the kookaburra, the blue wren and the robin.

After that he played the Yidaki really well. Then we had recess at the shopping centre and went to the bus stop to get the bus 190 back to school. It was an amazing cultural experience for all of us."

Mashal Durrani (8.07)

"On Friday 1 June 2012 Ms Harvey's Year 8 English class took a bus to Unley Town Hall. They attended a Reconciliation Week/'Welcome to Country' ceremony. The theme of the 2012 Reconciliation Week was 'Let's Talk Recognition'.

The students went to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture and history. The girls were invited to 'walk the path of reconciliation', along with Unley High School, Unley Primary School, Urrbrae and other local schools.

The ceremony was run by the Mayor of Unley. An Aboriginal man named John told a creation story of how birds were created and why they are the way they are. John involved students from all of the different schools in the story. The act of the story was very entertaining and educational. It showed us how the Aborigines use music, dance and stories to teach their history to others.

Once the story had been told and everyone had settled, students went out to the front to make speeches. Speaking on behalf of Mitcham Girls was Louisa Green. She spoke of recognising and acknowledging what happened during 'the lost generations' and the strength shown by the Aborigines who had their families taken away.

The ceremony ended with John Packham playing a song on his 'Yidaki' also known as a didgeridoo. It was a great day out and a lot was learnt about Aboriginal culture and history."

Amy Skingsley (8.07)

ICAS English Competitions

MGHS will once again offer students the opportunity to participate in this international competition. The sitting date is Tuesday 31 July 2012. Students provide answers to multiple choice questions based on age appropriate readings. Each participant receives a certificate and an individual student report highlighting strengths and weaknesses in the subject.

The participation fee is \$7.70. Students should pay this to the Finance Office when submitting their registration form, available from English teachers.

We encourage students to have a go, not only because of the feedback, the experience and the practice, but also in order to undertake a personal challenge.

Registration must be completed by the end of Term 2.

Zinta Ozolins
English Coordinator

SHIP Information

In 2011 a new model for SHIP class formation was introduced. At Year 8, and progressing through the year levels, a new structure was established. That structure meant mixed ability classes have run from the beginning of the year until the end of Semester One. Throughout that time data has been collected about the students' performance and abilities. At the same time staff members have been using criteria put to them to identify SHIP students the data may not always show.

I have met with the subject coordinators of Maths, English, Science and SOSE to review that data and those staff observations. From these meetings has come a list of students identified as being of high intellectual potential in those subjects. These students, with their parents' approval, will be offered a place in one, or several, of the SHIP classes at Year 8: Maths, English and Science. Students may be offered places in one, two or all of these classes depending on the indicators. A SOSE SHIP class will be formed in 2013.

This model aims to more accurately target the learning needs of students by addressing high intellectual potential in each of the subjects, rather than in a 'blanket' fashion. At the same time this structure does not require a SHIP care group to be formed, thus allowing pastoral care programs to be delivered to classes structured more socially rather than academically.

We are looking forward to the outcomes of this program with great anticipation.

Marcus Kerr
SHIP Coordinator

SOSE News

Geography Competition

The National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition was entered by a small group of students this year. Outstanding results were achieved by two students in the senior category, Georgina Szabo receiving a Credit and Elenor Jones-Gray a High Distinction. Congratulations girls!

We hope that, with Geography part of the second stage of the Australian Curriculum to be phased in from 2013 onwards, that more students will enter this competition to demonstrate their knowledge of the earth's physical and human environment.



Elenor Jones-Gray



Georgina Szabo

Maria Ivey

SOSE Coordinator

Sock It To You Fundraiser

The Term 2 fundraiser is here - good quality socks and other winter items. Most of these items are made in Australia from Australian wool. All monies raised will go towards the school Honour Boards.

Please return your order form together with payment (by cash, cheque or credit card) to the Finance Office no later than Friday 22 June.

Orders will be available for collection from the Conference Room (Admin Building) on Monday 16 July (first day of Term 3) from 12:45pm onwards.

Cynthia Goldsworthy
Fundraising Convenor

Transit of Venus

6 June 2012 - What a stellar time for science! The transit of Venus brought joy to the inner nerd of everyone who caught it. All day people stopped and safely stared at our star, the sun, watching a black pimple (Venus) travel across it. It was a moment in history shared during lesson, recess & lunch time by a wide variety of students & staff.



Opportunities

Year 11 Students

Science Olympics - A competition for Year 11 students!

The Australian Science Olympiad Exams are exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The exams are the first step in earning a spot on the Australian team to compete at the International Science Olympiads - the Olympic Games for science students.

Top performing students earn a spot at the Australian Science Olympiad Summer School, a 15 day residential program at Monash University. It is here students' minds will be stretched further and friendships with like-minded peers will be made. The very best Summer School students are selected to represent Australia at the International Science Olympiads in 2013.

Registrations close 30 June. Each exam costs \$10.00 per student. Interested? Ask your science teacher for an application.

Years 9 and 10 Students

Three days of activities packed with fun! The program is designed to provide students who have an interest in science with an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of scientists who love their work. Participants perform experiments in the laboratories, meet and hear senior lecturers, attend site visits and walk around and experience what it is like to be on the campus of a university or tertiary institution.

The program also provides information about further studies in science, technology and engineering. More than 47,000 students Australia wide have taken this opportunity, to date. Why? It's FUN. If you apply soon your local Rotary Club may offer you sponsorship. Ask your science teacher.

Universities & Tertiary Institutions

Flinders University, Adelaide
University of Adelaide, Adelaide
University of South Australia, Adelaide

Program Dates

3 – 5 December 2012
15 – 17 January 2013
11 – 13 December 2012

SpiRit of Science – Maurice de Rohan Scholarships 2012

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL TO LONDON - ALL EXPENSES PAID – IN DECEMBER 2012?

The ***SpiRit of Science*** Program is a unique opportunity for 10 students to travel to London, in December 2012, accompanied by 2 teachers.

In 2005 an exciting offshoot of Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield's visit as an Adelaide Thinker in Residence was a project that enabled 10 South Australian students to visit London and attend the young peoples' Christmas Lectures at the Royal Institution of Great Britain (RiGB). For more information about Adelaide Thinkers in Residence see www.thinkers.sa.gov.au.

Find out more about the Christmas lectures on the Royal Institution website www.rigb.org. In 2012 the lectures are scheduled to take place in the first two weeks of December (to be confirmed).

Who can apply?

The program is targeted at Year 10 students with an interest in Science. Students in the following categories are encouraged to apply:

- Eligible for School Card
- Girls
- Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Under the Guardianship of the Minister.

Work undertaken through this program will provide accreditation for a SACE Stage 1 unit.

Student Selection Criteria

- Students must be able to demonstrate an interest in aspects of Science and/or Mathematics and/or ICT in all or some of the following areas:
 - At school
 - In their own time
 - As a career path (Weighting 35%)
- Able to work collaboratively, manage new situations and take personal responsibility (Weighting 35%)
- Demonstrate skills in student leadership (Weighting 15%)
- Confidence to speak in public (Weighting 15%)

To Be Considered For The Trip You Need To:

1. Use the student application pro forma, write **up to** 800 words about yourself and your skills and why you would like to be selected for the program.
2. Talk to your science teacher who will complete a separate pro forma for you.
3. Give your report to the principal well before 30 June.

Helen Marussinszky
Science Coordinator

Uniform Shop

The Mitcham Girls High School uniform is available from the following locations:

Mitcham Girls High School during school term - Thursdays 8:00am – 1:30pm.

or

Uniform Management Services, 109 Rundle Street, Kent Town, tel: 08 8363 5255, Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm. Place an order over the phone or online www.umspl.com.au/contactus.html.

Tertiary Information Update

Interested in Science and Engineering at James Cook University (QLD)?

If so, please take up the invitation to meet John Chandler (Director, Business Development) at the Adelaide Convention Centre, 9-11 July, 5:00 -7:00pm.

Flinders University

Open Day: Friday 17 and Saturday 18 August. Students can register for updates at www.flinders.edu.au. New courses at Flinders in 2012:

- Arts - High Achievers' Program
- Clean Technology
- Engineering (Electrical)
- Engineering Technology
- Forensic and Analytical Science
- Mathematical Sciences
- Psychological Science

More info at www.flinders.edu.au.

Attention Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Students in Year 12 applying for Allied Health, Dentistry, Midwifery or Nursing courses. Scholarships are available - application information free call 1800 688 628 or www.rcna.org.au.

NIDA School Holiday Courses: 2 - 8 July

Venue: Christian Brothers College, 215 Wakefield Street, Adelaide

NIDA short courses develop practical skills, build confidence and foster creativity. The classes cater for all levels of experience and are a great way for students to gain up-to-date skills from the arts and entertainment industries. More information at marketing@nida.edu.au or call 02 9697 7641.

Australian National University (ACT)

Open Day: Saturday 25 August 2012

2013 Undergraduate Guide available from Ms Olifent or <http://drss.anu.edu.au/publications>.

University of South Australia

Open Day: Sunday 19 August 2012

2013 Undergraduate Guide available from Ms Olifent or Ms Howlett.

Changes/new courses for 2013 undergraduates:

- Bachelor of Education specialisations - Early Childhood, Primary and Primary/Middle
- Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology
- Bachelor of Arts (Indigenous Cultures and Australian Society)
- Bachelor of Electrical and Renewable Energy Systems
- Bachelor of Mechatronic Engineering

Further information available from Ms Olifent or www.unisa.edu.au

Virtual campus tours: www.unisa.edu.au/Campus-Facilities/Maps-Tours

Publications: www.unisa.edu.au/future/advisres/publications/asp

Career Shop: www.unisa.edu.au/Careershop

Pathways to University of South Australia courses:

- Year 12 leavers: ATAR
- Over 18 years old: STAT
- UniSA College - Foundation Studies or Diploma course
- TAFE pathway

The University of Adelaide Updates

- Increased TAFE/VET pathways
- University Preparatory Program: Pathway for students who don't achieve good ATAR, allows pathways into General degrees. This course is free, but students do not achieve an award
- Any Advanced Diploma, Diploma or Cert IV, automatic entry into Bachelor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

New degrees for 2013:

- Bachelor of Computer Science (Advanced)
- Bachelor of Mathematical Sciences (Advanced)
(Both degrees are aimed at high achievers with an ATAR entry requirement of 95)
- Bachelor of Arts Advanced: This degree has an ATAR entry of 95 and has accelerated study in specific majors
- Bachelor of Arts and Teaching
- Bachelor of Languages: Major in 2 languages

New Specialist Majors in 2013:

- Bachelor of Media: New specialisation in Journalism, Digital Production, Photographic Imaging, Graphic Design, Computer Game Art, CGI and Visual FX, and Marketing
- Bachelor of Arts: New specialisation in Creative Writing

Tabor Adelaide

Open Day: Saturday 18 August 2012

Time: 10:00am – 2:30pm

Tabor Adelaide courses: Teacher Education, Social Science, Humanities, TESOL, Ministry, Business Studies, Community Services

Further information available www.taboradelaide.edu.au

Carrick Education

VET courses: Certificate III Events, Certificate II Tourism, Certificate II and III Hospitality, Business, Hairdressing, Management, Marketing, Tourism

Short Courses: Barista, RSA

Degree Courses: Accounting, Business (Hospitality and Tourism Management)

Colour Cosmetica

Courses available in Image Management, Hairdressing, Cosmetic and Make Up from Certificate II to Advanced Diploma. VET courses and post school options and pathways.

Further information available www.colourcosmetica.com

Further information and assistance with your career pathway choices please make an appointment to see Ms Olifent.

Jill Olifent
VET Coordinator

School Hip Hop Team

After countless dance rehearsals and numerous hours of preparation the dynamic and energetic School Aerobics Hip-Hop team 'Genesis' competed on 12 May at Westminster School. Choreographer, Amy Denton, led a team of 6 dancers who auditioned for a place in the team: Steph Ramsey, Jenny Beaty, Nina Ash-Clarke, Renee Ellis, Lulu Ginindza and Kahla Parsons.

The team performed extremely well and were placed 5th. Unfortunately, the night before the semi-finals, during practice, a member of the team dislocated her knee and was unable to continue. This meant the team was unable to compete as the rules state that a team must consist of a minimum of 6 people. However, the team was given the chance to perform at the competition and receive feedback.



As part of my Communities Studies contract I am organising a Dance Benefit to raise money for the Neurosurgical Research Foundation where the skills of the hip-hop team will be showcased together with a variety of dance and musical items from MGHS students and One50 Dance Club.

Details of the benefit:

Date: Friday 3 August 2012

Time: 7:00 – 8:30pm

Venue: PAC

Ticket must be pre purchased from Kahla Parsons (12.03) or through an on line donation.

Kahla Parsons (12.03)

Diary Dates

June	Friday 29 Friday 29	Year 11 Reflection Day End Term 2 Reports Distributed 3:10pm
July	Monday 16 Tuesday 24 Monday 30 Monday 30 – Friday 3 Aug	Term 3 Begins Ski Trip Parent Info Evening Governing Council 7:00pm Year 12 Exams
Aug	Friday 10 Tuesday 14	WWW published on website Principal's Tour 9:15am
Sept	Monday 3 Tuesday 4 Thursday 5 – Monday 10 Friday 7 Monday 10 Friday 14 Friday 21	MMAD Day Governing Council 7:00pm Dance Night 7:00 Odeon Theatre, Norwood Ski Trip School Closure (Show Day) Student Free Day WWW published on website End Term 3 Reports Distributed 3:10pm