

## What, When & Why

@ Mitcham Girls High School

No 7, Friday 12 August 2011, Term 3

### From the Principal...

Dear Families,

This term we welcome the following teachers into our school:

- Mr Tom De Angelis (Maths / Science)
- Mr Deane Stewart (PLP / Business Studies / SOSE)
- Mr Scott Gladstone ( PE / Science)
- Ms Annalisa Sheridan (Art)
- Ms Robyn Stoward (PE)
- Mr Michael Poben (Maths)

Please understand that we try our hardest to keep the same teachers in front of classes all year round, however, there are inevitable circumstances such as long service leave and illness which prevent us from doing so.

I am happy to report that the students have settled well into Term 3 and we thank you for your patience and understanding with some staffing issues we have had.

You would also be interested to know that, as from 2012, teachers will have permanent tenure. This means that there should be a lot more stability in schools as far as staffing is concerned. Hopefully by 2013 the school will only need to replace teachers who win a position elsewhere and teachers who take long service leave.

#### **Uniform**

Thanks to all families who have purchased the "uniform" shoes for their daughters. The prescribed shoes are safe, they look smart, and all girls are wearing them.

The length of dresses and skirts remains an issue. A small percentage of girls wear their uniform far too short. The Uniform Committee has developed a uniform policy which stipulates that "skirts and dresses should not be any shorter than one palm width above the knee". I would really appreciate your support on this matter.

#### **School Fence**

The Education Department has provided the school with a high fence which renders the school a lot more secure. The Department and, indeed the Minister of Education, are keen to keep green spaces open and that is the reason why the front oval has not been enclosed.

#### **Information and Communication Technology**

At long last the wireless infrastructure is now in place and all students have access to a computer, be it a laptop, a notebook or a desk top. This year we have also decided to buy 25 IMAC computers so as to introduce the students to the varied applications available.

As well as having Mr Michael Rayner as the Systems Manager, the school has also employed Mr Trevor Ayliffe, who is also very skilled in computing, to support students with any issues they may have with their computers throughout the day.

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Government of South Australia  
Department of Education and  
Children's Services

## From the Principal (cont.)

### **Year 12 Research Project**

We congratulate all of the students who have completed the Research Project. At this point in time we only have twelve students who have yet to finalise their project. I would also like to thank all teachers who have taken on this new and challenging subject this year. Ms Deborah Dodd was given the task of ensuring that the work the girls did last year met the "new" requirements of the course. We are very grateful for her tenacity and hard work.

Regards,  
**Antoinette Jones**

## 2012 Subject Selection / Web Preferences

Yes, that is correct; I am already writing about 2012.

During the next few weeks we will be discussing with students which subjects they wish to study in 2012. However, this year we are asking the girls to make their subject choices on line. The software allows us to have the girls enter their choices directly into the data that then creates our timetable for 2012. This process will save many hours of data entry and remove the chance of a typing error upon entry.

Each student has an individual printed Access Guide with their own Student Access Code and Password on it. By logging onto [www.webpreferences.com.au](http://www.webpreferences.com.au) and using this code and password students will be able to select their preferences. Please be careful, however, as each student only gets one submission. Students will be able to access the website from school if there is no internet connection available at home.

Students have been introduced to the program at school and should be familiar enough with it to make selections accurately. The Curriculum Handbook is available via our school website [www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au](http://www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au) and the same subject descriptors and instructions are available via the web preferences program.

At the conclusion of their selections, girls will print out a receipt that they will need to bring to school. Girls in Years 8 and 9 will return these sheets to their Care Group teachers by **Friday 26 August**. Students in Years 10 and 11 will need to print out their receipt and bring it to their Course Counselling appointment on either **Wednesday 24 or Thursday 25 August**. A letter confirming appointment times will be forwarded in the next few days.

We hope this system is easy for you to use, however, if you have any issues please feel free to give me a ring.

**Anne Carpenter**  
Assistant Principal

## The Arts News

### **SALA Week**



As part of SALA WEEK (South Australian Living Artists) 2011, Gemma Mickan, a Year 12 Visual Art student, will have her work displayed in the Fifth Annual Secondary Drawing Exhibition at Carclew Arts Centre from 4 to 26 August.

This Exhibition features work done at the Art Gallery of South Australia student drawing classes earlier this year. For information about the Exhibition go to [www.salafestival.com](http://www.salafestival.com).

Well done Gemma!

**Meredith Arnold**  
Arts Coordinator

### ***Dance ... not just about the movement!***

At the end of last term the senior Dance students presented their major performance 'Telling Tales' with great success. The girls worked collaboratively to present a number of varied dances, requiring different skills and performance characters, along with a great deal of physical stamina and attention to detail.

The Year 11 students involved were asked to reflect on their performance, articulate what they learnt and set some goals for their future development.

The reports indicated their love of performing, their acknowledgement of the efforts of their peers and how Dance has helped them to face challenges head on and become more confident, focused young people with a passion to improve even more. Their involvement in the Dance performance has given them skills in teamwork, persistence, organisation and personal confidence – skills not only useful on the stage, but for life.

Here are some comments from some of the Year 11 dancers:

*'I feel like I have developed and grown as a dancer; the world of contemporary dance is no longer a mile away from me anymore. The overall performance experience felt amazing.....'* **Amy**

*'The different styles of dance that we performed on the moderation night required a whole range of skills, some of which I was familiar with and some were a new experience. One of the things I loved about the performance was working together...we all helped each other.'* **Gemma**

*'I have really had the chance to expand and experiment with many types of dance and to be able to find myself a place and style in dance. I have improved so much and I'm continuing to do so....It's not just about the movements, it's also about the way your body responds to them.'* **Danielle**

*'Over the course of the performance I had to change and adapt my performance skills many times. I enjoyed this challenge greatly.... I just tried to take one dance at a time, fully placing myself in the moment and in the emotion as much as I could.'* **Brooke**

*'This has been a wonderful journey: something that I've never experienced before. It was filled with lots of hard work, dedication and pressure, but has also been fun and rewarding.'* **Katherine**

My congratulations to all the students who performed!

### ***Year 8 Dance Performance Team***

A group of enthusiastic Year 8 students gathered in the Dance Studio on Tuesday of Week 1 to audition for the new Year 8 Dance Performance Team. Everyone tackled the audition confidently and gave it their best.

A group of sixteen Year 8 students have been selected to form the Performance Team, the aim of which is to have fun and create performance works to be presented to the school community. The group is designed primarily for students with some prior dance experience or for those who show a particular flair for dance. It is hoped that in the future senior dance students will become involved in the role of choreographers or mentors to the younger girls. The group will meet Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes and start by creating two contrasting dance works to be performed later in the term.

Congratulations to the following students who are our Year 8 Dance Performance Team: Courtney Bain, Brin Berndsen, Kat Boeck, Meagan Cece, Zoe Charman, Makeisha Cole, Alison Double, Bek Gentry, Sheridan Golding, Carly Hayes, Rebecca Jury, Brooke Mysiszczew, Emily McClintock, Shyanne Pich, Helen Smith, Tyler Wilkinson.

**Judy Swan**  
Dance Teacher

**Chemical Murder Mystery**



A group of enthusiastic Year 10 students went to Flinders University, and found out a lot about Forensic Science and its role in identifying criminals.

They worked in teams to examine the evidence and identify 'who did it?' in a mock murder.



**I'm A Scientist, Get me out of Here!**

The Year 9 classes were involved in an Australia trial of an award-winning science enrichment and engagement activity that has been running in the UK for three years.

It's an Australian Idol style competition for scientists, where students are the judges. The students made good use of our new technology by asking questions by email, talking online on the website, and voting for their favourite scientist.



**RiAus Adelaide Reef and Science Art Trail**

**Well done** Natalie Hamdorf, 9.21. She has been busy making crochet corals as part of RiAus Adelaide Reef and Science Art Trail. The exhibition dates are Friday 5 August to Wednesday 7 September. Come along and view the display.



**Opportunities for Year 9 and 10 students - 'Science Experience'**

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.

The program takes place in different laboratories and lecture theatres. Students will perform experiments, meet scientists, hear mini lectures, meet lots of other students and experience what it is like to be on the campus of a university.

Are you interested? Visit <http://www.scienceexperience.com.au/about> or ask your teachers.

Where?	When?
University of Adelaide, Adelaide	18-20 January 2011
Flinders University, Adelaide	6-8 December 2010
University of South Australia, Adelaide	11-13 January 2011

### **Health of the River Forum**

If you are interested in environmental issues check the website <http://www.mdfrc.org.au/students/river/>.

This four day event is held at Lake Cullulleraine, 50km west of Mildura, Victoria. It offers an exciting opportunity for interested students and future leaders to become involved in a long-weekend of activities that are designed to raise their awareness of the needs of, and ways of maintaining, an ecologically sound river system. The students sample fish, bugs, aquatic plants and water quality and, in the process, learn about their biology and the impacts of our use of the resource.

They also visit Lindemans Winery, Lock 11, learn about indigenous cultural heritage on the Murray flood plain and participate in a role play game where the demands of the environment have to be traded off against economic and social issues. The camp isn't all work, however, as there are opportunities for physical activities including canoeing, swimming and yachting on the lake.

**Helen Marussinszky**  
Science Coordinator

## Maths News

Below is an excerpt from an article that appeared in Education Now section of The Advertiser on Tuesday 2 August 2011.

### **All Adds Up To Excellence**

*Adding fun to mathematics is a perfect equation for Mitcham Girls High School teacher Vanessa Cole.*

*Ms Cole said making the subject accessible and useful was an important part of helping students to learn.*

*"I try to break it up with different activities and make it enjoyable," she said.*

*"The exercises we do are really life applications so they can see where it's eventually going to be used.*

*"I love it. You can check if you're right. And I always really enjoyed maths at school.*



*L-R Marie-Claire Copley, Emilia Reuter, Vanessa Cole, Hannah White, Louise Mitchell*

*Ms Cole teaches a mixture of maths and science at the all-girls school and said working in an all-female environment required a few different skills.*

*"With Girls, it's about relating to them, and if you get on well with them they respect you," she said.*

*"Girls are a lot more talkative and it's really more about role modelling and showing that girls can do maths and science."*

*She said being a good teacher involves tuning into students, modifying the work and "being able to apply maths to their needs".*

*Ms Cole's hard work has earned her a nomination in the TeachSA Awards.*

*"I was very surprised, I was a bit chuffed. It was nice to be thought of," she said.*

## 40 Hour Famine

World Vision Australia started the 40 Hour Famine in 1975, for the purpose of raising money to help children, their families and communities in desperate need.

Thirty six years on the 40 Hour Famine is bigger than ever. Each year around 300,000 Australians take part.

The funds raised every year by the 40 Hour Famine continue to support World Vision's work tackling the causes of poverty, through both short-term solutions and long-term development projects.

This year the focus is on East Timor – a country less than 600 kms from Australia. In East Timor 54% of children under the age of 5 suffer from stunted growth and 49% of children are malnourished.

40 Hour Famine funds will help East Timorese increase the amount of food they eat by: creating seed banks to produce more food each harvest, improving food storage so that harvested food lasts longer and establishing kitchen gardens so families can grow their own vegetables.

At Mitcham we have over 150 young women who are responding to the challenge by taking part in the 40 Hour Famine on 19 to 21 August. They have chosen to give up a variety of things from food to phones, and some have even chosen to give up make-up in support of the cause!

We are hoping to raise at least \$4,000 which is less than \$40 per student – a figure that in East Timor can feed a family of five for a month!

If you have a daughter who is taking part in the 40 Hour Famine this year, I encourage you to support her in taking the initiative to look beyond herself and do something to help those less privileged. You might even want to join her. (You can sign up at [www.40hourfamine.com](http://www.40hourfamine.com))

Let's hope that together we can achieve our target amount which will make a really positive impact on the lives of some of our closest neighbours.

**Bek Brown**  
Christian Pastoral Support Worker

## Exchange Students

We welcome and farewell our NACEL short term exchange student, Mélisande Caratis, who was hosted by Mia Neale and her family. Mélisande only attended school for two weeks this term, but quickly found her niche and provided a great source of information for French and for France while she was here for both students and teachers.

We learnt about the subjects that she does in her school, near Grenoble – ELEVEN subjects in all, and about some of the leisure activities that she pursues. It is clear that part time jobs are much less common, since her school day starts at 8.00am and may well finish at 5.00pm with homework to follow.



*Mia & Mélisande at the Science Alive Exhibition at the Wayville Showgrounds*

We, of course, encourage all our school community to consider being hosts and, as well, to consider and plan for an exchange overseas if at all possible.

**Sue Howlett**

## Year 12 Retreat

A big thank you to the parents and caregivers who supported their daughters at the Year 12 Retreat Dinner. It was a very snug fit for 200 people, your consideration and patience with seating and serving was very much appreciated.

We have had lots of feedback from the girls and some creative suggestions for future dinners. We are currently reviewing all aspects of the Retreat and would appreciate any feedback you can offer, but particularly on the ideas behind the dinner – a chance to meet other parents, acknowledgement of the support you give your daughters, time out together away from the humdrum of study and a positive way to start the evening for the girls. Could we do this differently?

Please email any reflections/suggestions to [kaye.naughton@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au](mailto:kaye.naughton@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au).

As we were staying at the Mantra apartments we took the idea of a Mantra and left some possible personal mantras on your tables to consider and have fun with. Some of you took this up and below are a few responses.

The coloured sections are your additions:

**"The good news is you can do it. The bad news is, you have to do it." .....** *So like Nike says " just do it." Scouts do it all the time!*

**"You love the things you pay attention to." .....** *Really???? I don't like traffic lights or Zits*

**"Expecting someone to be other than they have been is irrational behaviour." .....** *but totally human!*

**The future is shaped by .....** *Jenny Craig!*

**Life is too short.....** *marry a tall man and you have a chance of having a standard height child or marry a rich one and then no matter what you do you can do what you want.*

**Kaye Naughton**  
Student Counsellor



## Year 8 Immunisations

Tuesday 13 September is the next immunisation date for **Year 8** students.

Their vaccinations will be the third dose of Human Papilloma Virus vaccine and the second dose of Hepatitis B where consent has previously been given.

If you have any concerns or changes please ring Mitcham Council BEFORE Tuesday 13 September. Care Group teachers and staff do not have the knowledge or the authority to answer your questions.

Contact the City of Mitcham Immunisation Team on **8372 8816**

**Kaye Naughton**  
Student Counsellor

## Diary Dates

<b>Aug</b>	<b>Tuesday 23</b>	Principal's Tour 9:15am
	<b>Wednesday 24</b>	Course Counselling Evening Years 10 & 11
	<b>Thursday 25</b>	Course Counselling Day Years 10 & 11
<b>Sept</b>	<b>Thursday 1</b>	What, When & Why Published
	<b>Thursday 1 – Monday 5</b>	Ski Trip
	<b>Friday 2</b>	School Closure (Show Day)
	<b>Monday 5</b>	Student Free Day (Professional Learning Day)
	<b>Thursday 8</b>	Year 12 Solo Performance
	<b>Monday 12</b>	MMAD Day
	<b>Monday 12</b>	Governing Council 7:00pm
	<b>Tuesday 13</b>	Year 8 Immunisations
	<b>Friday 23</b>	Year 12 Music Moderation Final
	<b>Friday 23</b>	What, When & Why Published
	<b>Friday 30</b>	Year 12 Formal 7:00pm
	<b>Friday 30</b>	End of Term 3
		Reports distributed 3:10pm



**Youth For Understanding (YFU) Australia is a not for profit exchange organisation for high school students who wish to spend between 3 and 52 weeks on an educational experience abroad.**

**Choose from over 40 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas!**

**!!!!!!! SPECIAL PROMOTION !!!!!!!**

**YFU has GENEROUS scholarships and “Early Bird” discounts available for all programs departing in January 2012.**

## **Information Day in South Australia**

**Do you:**

- **Want to have experiences of studying overseas?**
- **Want to work with us?**
- **Want to have a mutual and multicultural learning experience in South Australia?**

**If YES, COME and LISTEN to us!**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

**Time: 6:30 - 7:55pm**

**Venue: Bray Room 1, State Library of South Australia  
Cnr North Terrace and Kintore Avenue  
Adelaide**

**\*For further information, please contact Louisa Au (the State Coordinator of SA) at 0422 079 534 or email [hylouisa2002@gmail.com](mailto:hylouisa2002@gmail.com)**

**Visit [www.yfu.com.au](http://www.yfu.com.au) for more information or add us as a friend on Facebook:  
(Have a live one-on-one chat with one of our Student Exchange Advisors between 4 and 5 pm (AEST) on the second Tuesday of every month!)**

## **SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE**

The South Australian Dental Service provides a range of dental services for children at clinics throughout Adelaide and all major country regional centres.

Dental care is provided by dental teams comprising of Dentists, Dental Therapists and Dental Assistants.

**All preschool, primary and secondary students aged 18 years and under, are eligible for care with the School Dental Service. Fees and conditions apply.**

**From 1 July 2009 there will be some changes to School Dental Service fees.**

- All School Dental Service care is **free for preschool children** (general and emergency).
- Children who are dependents of / holders of Centrelink Concession Cards, Veterans Affairs Pension Concession Cards or School Cards are eligible to receive free dental care (general and emergency).
- For primary and secondary school children who are not dependents of / holders of the above concessions, a fee will apply for each course of general dental care provided.
- Students with a Commonwealth Government Teen Dental Voucher are welcome to use it at the School Dental Service. If presented at a School Dental clinic it will entitle them to a full course of dental treatment including preventive care and any treatment if required.
- Dental emergencies treated at a School Dental Clinic between check ups will be covered by the fee paid at your child's most recent check up.

For information about appointments and fees, contact your local School Dental Clinic on: 8271 0371.

Parents of children with specific physical or intellectual needs should contact their local School Dental Clinic to discuss their child's needs.

In case of a dental emergency contact your local clinic to arrange an appointment.

For after hours emergency advice phone 8232 2651 (children only).