

# WHAT, WHEN & WHY

No. 7, 13 November 2017, Term 4



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## *From The Principal*

Dear Mitcham Families,

You would have read some media reports that Mitcham Girls High School was allocated \$5 million by the State Government, under the 'Building Better Schools' program. A total of \$692.2 million has been allocated to 91 schools across the state to refurbish and redevelop learning facilities. Such investment will be delivered over six years, beginning in 2017.

We are hoping to meet with managers from the Department for Education and Child Development soon so that we can establish when we can start using the funds and for what purpose. The Physical Resources Committee will make recommendations to the Governing Council about areas of the school which should be upgraded. The School's Strategic Directions 2016-2018 identifies the refurbishment of one of our kitchens as a priority. Stage Two of the quadrangle development has also been on our wish list for many years and we hope that we can provide "green" spaces for our students to enjoy through this funding. Technology resources and new tables and chairs for students are also on our list.

We are very excited about this next stage of redevelopment and will certainly keep you informed as more information becomes available.

### **Student Recommended Devices**

You should have received an email informing you about the new School Recommended Devices which included the logon name and password. Rather than repeating the information here, if you wish to buy a computer please go to our website [www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au/curriculum/ict](http://www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au/curriculum/ict) and follow the link to the SRD portal.

Thanks to the many parents who responded to our survey at the beginning of the year. Your advice on how to proceed over the next three years was extremely useful and has guided our decisions.

### **Year 10 and 11 Exams**

When students get to Year 12 they need to be able to cope with exams, most of which are of three hour duration. To prepare students for this task, all Year 10 and Year 11 students are required to sit exams in all of their subjects. The end of year exams will be held during the week beginning 27 November. All students are expected to undertake exams. Students who do not sit the exams will receive an "N" which means they have not attempted the exam. Where the exams count towards the final grade for a subject, the "N" equates to zero unless the student brings a doctor's certificate. Please encourage your daughter to attend all exams as this experience will serve her well when she is in Year 12.

### **Other Important Dates**

November 20	Whole School Assembly: Celebrating Achievement
November 22	Presentation Night (Edwardstown Baptist Church, St Marys, 7:00pm)
November 30	Last day of school for Year 11 students
December 1	Student Free Day
December 6	Last day of school for Year 10 students
December 13	Last day of school for Year 8 and 9 students, reports and Year Book distributed at 2:25 pm
December 14	Orientation Day for Year 11 students Year 10, 11 and 12 students to collect Year Book Year 10 and 11 students collect reports

*Antoinette Jones*

## ***Middle School News***

Term 4 heralds the end of the year and sees our Middle School students looking to their future pathways. This means subject selection, a change of class and possibly changing friendship groups as individual interests become stronger; this is perfectly normal and nothing to worry about. Looking back, the last couple of months have been filled with events, expos, excursions and challenging learning. Congratulations, to our Children's University Graduates once again, fourteen graduates with some amazing volunteer hours completed.

We also welcomed to the school, future students who will be joining us in 2018. Supported by current Year 8 students, they enjoyed a range of activities and were provided with information to help their move into high school next year. Our students are to be commended on the way they approached their duties and represented the school.

The next step is to plan our Week 8 Challenge Week activities and the end of year Graduation Concert, allowing the Middle School students to enjoy a sense of satisfaction in all they have taken on and perhaps even conquered.



**Zinta Ozolins** | Assistant Principal Middle school

## ***Maths News***

Numerical Acumen is an online Maths program which aims to help students develop the 'mechanical basics of a numerical mind'. It allows students to log on and compete against the clock to build up abilities in multiplication and addition and fractions. Through multiplication, addition and fraction games students work to increase the speed at which they recall basic number facts and accuracy. These skills in turn support their application across all areas of Maths.

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for participating in the Numerical Acumen Challenge which ran for a semester.

Hannah Couprie

Devangie Gunawardana

Vera Song

Vanshika Syal

Special Awards:

Isadora Sweeney

Bronze

Bronze with Honours

Bronze With Honours

Silver With Honours

Dedication Award and Improvement Award Bronze Level

**Numerical Acumen**



Students had to complete various challenges over the completion period as they developed fluency, accuracy and speed in basic number facts.

To earn an award, the goal of each stage in each game (in a particular Difficulty Level) must be met.

**Bronze:** All goals met in every game at the Starting Out Difficulty Level

**Silver:** All goals met in every game at the Moving On Difficulty Level

**Honours:** To achieve Honours, you must complete all stages of every game without error

**Mark Whitehorn** | Maths Coordinator

## ***Science News***

### **Education Perfect Results**

Many students participated in the Science Perfect online competition. Mitcham was 4th in the State out of forty six schools answering almost 37,000 questions in one week. Special congratulations to the students who earned awards: Silver to Hitaxiben Jani, Devangie Gunawardana and Vanshika Syal. Bronze to Vidhi Jani and Credit awards to Asha Foster, Anastacia Nadj, Jumana El-Masry, Mehroz Chaudhary, Bonnie Coventry and Hasini Kapuwelle.

### **Mitcham in Space**

Year 9 students Zuha Faisal, Emma Eglinton, Vidhi Jani and Nicola Lieff researched their experimental idea to put on the verandah of the International Space Station. They presented this to business leaders and scientists at the Astronomical Conference. Several students also volunteered to be guides and enjoyed the amazing conference.

### **Space in 3D**

A group of Year 9 and 10 students visited the State Library to learn about space in 3D and see moon rocks from the Apollo missions.

### **STEM Ambassadors**

Our STEM ambassadors, Sarah Burnett and Willow Rist, formed an action team with other Year 8 students in their class to increase awareness of STEM in our lives. They met other teams in the district on an excursion to Blackwood where they shared their ideas and made plans to implement them.

### **Oliphant Science Awards**

The results of this competition were announced at the end of Term 3. Special congratulations to the students who won state success in Photography - Ella Bennett and Rowan Wilson; Scientific Inquiry - Nicola Lieff. Many were highly recommended - Ashlee Fauser, Tori Hughes, Courtney Mazzino, Juliette Smith and Maddy Ryan.

### **Interested in Marine Science?**

Come to the SARDI Aquatics Open Day on Sunday 19 November at 2 Hamra Avenue, West Beach. Science demonstrations, touch tanks, boat tours, even cooking demonstrations with Simon Bryant. Free entry!

**Helen Marussinszky** | Science Coordinator

## ***Sport News***

### **House Captain Elections**

Elections for 2018 House Captains took place in Week 4. Votes will be tallied this week and the House Captains will be announced during the Whole School Assembly on Monday 20 November. Good luck to all nominees!

### **Zone Sport**

The Term 3/4 Southern Zone Sport season commenced in Week 7 Term 3. Mitcham entered teams in the Year 8/9 Volleyball, Open Volleyball and Year 8/9 Indoor Soccer competitions. Mitcham's Year 8/9 Volleyball team is currently in the mix for a spot in the final. However, the Open Volleyball team hasn't had the same luck and will battle it out for minor positions in the next few weeks.

Following on from their successful soccer competition in Term 2/3, players from the soccer team are also playing for Mitcham's Year 8/9 Indoor Soccer team. With one round to go, they have already clinched the title and cannot fall from top spot. Well done to the team and Mauro Barani and Mr Finos who have coached the team!

### **Premier's Be Active Challenge**

Congratulations to the following students who successfully completed the Premier's Be Active Challenge in Term 3: Isabella Saba, Jordan McGuire, Elizabeth Davis, Claire Collins, Nazha Mohamed Nasmi. Each student completed four consecutive weeks of physical activity for a minimum of 60 minutes per day.

**Dimi Sianis** | Sports Assistant

## Arts News

### Summer Music Showcase

On Tuesday 24 October, our talented Music students performed its final *Summer Showcase* to a full house. The Concert Band opened the show with medleys of *Disco* and *Mamma Mia* soundtracks. Past Music students were the MCs for the evening, introducing acts such as: the Choir, Woodwind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and all the year level bands. The evening showcased our talented young musicians and we are looking forward to them developing their musical skills in future years. Ms Ann Gatis is retiring and was farewelled by parents, staff and appreciative students.



Meredith Arnold | Arts Coordinator

### Year 9 Drama

Year 9 Drama performed a stellar production of *We Open Tomorrow Night* by Michael Wehrli, during two matinee performances, at the end of last term.

This was a fantastic and funny play where the cast and crew took audiences into the world of a school dress rehearsal. As *We Open Tomorrow Night* is a comedy, and pokes fun at the behind the scenes operations of school productions (including the staff, students and parents who get involved), this class had an absolute ball, picking holes in the farce of school life.

In the end, these students presented an engaging and high energy performance! The laughter from the audience, who were entertained by their hilarious characters and well-timed technical comedy, was audible beyond the PAC walls.

Congratulations Year 9 for an outstanding production!

### SACE Stage 1 Drama

This year's Stage 1 Drama production, *A Midsummer Night's Mid-Term*, by William Shakespeare and adapted by Robert W La Vohn, is a light-hearted look at one of Shakespeare's classic tales. Set in two corresponding locations: a student's home, the day before a test; and in and around the city of Athens, in antiquity; this two-act play draws the audience into this world through the eyes of four middle school students.

The Stage 1 class, which is made up of both Year 10 and Year 11 students have been placed on a tight schedule; with only a six week rehearsal period to work with, the complex vernacular of Shakespeare's English to decode, and a 50 minute play to produce, this production has been no easy feat.

The cast and crew involved in *A Midsummer Night's Mid-Term* are excited to show off their hard work and would love to invite family and friends to an evening performance Thursday 16 November in the Performing Arts Centre at 6:00pm.

Come along, to immerse yourself into the world of Shakespeare!

Kate Ralph | Drama Teacher



## ***Senior School News***

### **Year 12s End of Year**

Term 4 is a very unusual time for Stage 2 students. In Week 2 they are farewelled by the school community at a formal assembly, celebrate the end of formal classes and their final school get together as a cohort of students and then face exams and submission of final assessment items before their very last school event; Presentation Night in Week 6.

The Farewell Assembly began with a montage of familiar songs, organised by Zali Craig and Danielle Hughes, which played as the Stage 2 students danced into the assembly.

Ms Jones and Ms Howlett spoke to students and then Danielle and Zali gave the Year 12 Valedictory address on behalf of this year's group of students. Many parents attended to see their daughters begin the final steps of their secondary education.

Staff were able to bid students a light-hearted farewell at the end of the week when students and staff dressed up with the theme of the 90s and 00s and enjoyed a morning tea prepared for them by the Mitcham InterChurch Council. We thank the MICC and Catherine Chambers, our Pastoral Care Worker, for their support in facilitating this event.

After this, it was time for students to begin the 'swot vac' and make the final touches to their final assessment items.

We wish all of them success.

**Sue Howlett** | SACE

### **Year 11 MFS Driver Awareness Program**

On Monday 16 October, Year 11 students undertook the Metropolitan Fire Service's RAP Driver Awareness Program. The informative and confronting session was truly appreciated by our students.

Of the 85 students who attended, 52 students nominated that they were RISK TAKERS and 1 nominated as TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE as drivers/road users prior to seeing RAP.

All 85 students checked the box indicating they choose to be a RESPONSIBLE DRIVER/ROAD USER after participating in the RAP presentation.

In response to the question, "Following the program will you adopt safer road behaviours?" 85 out of 85 students said yes.

What Risk Taking Behaviours will you change?

- Wearing headphones while crossing the road.
- Changing music on my phone while driving.
- Texting while driving
- Getting into a car with a driver I don't know or doubt their ability

Quotes regarding the guest speaker 'Kim' whose wife and daughters had been tragically killed in an accident.

*"I think meeting and hearing Kim was particularly beneficial as you can watch many videos on how road accidents can affect one's life but seeing how hard it was for him to talk about the events, in person, really impacted on the students emotionally."*

*"Fantastic. This made me more aware of consequences and impacted on me as a driver and pedestrian. Big thanks to Kim for sharing his story. I'm glad I was able to experience this presentation and will pass on the message. Before this I never thought of the consequences but now I will."*

**Meredith Arnold** | Year 11 Manager

## ***Whole School News***

### **National History Challenge**

This year students from Year 9 entered the National History Challenge. The theme of Making the World a Better Place was addressed with students exploring the topic from a range of perspectives. This included consideration of specific events, periods, decisions, individuals or groups in various fields, for example, fashion, medicine, or particular social movements as the focus of their research. Zuha Faisal's entry received the State Award for Year 9.

### **Maisie Walker NASA scholarship**

Year 11 student Maisie Walker won the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia Scholarship for South Australia valued at \$10,000 which will enable her to attend the 2018 HASSE Senior Space Program in the USA. This is a fantastic opportunity which builds on Maisie's genuine interest and love of space science. The scholarship will cover the full cost of tuition, admission to the program events, air fares, accommodation, meals and travel insurance.

We thank the Alliance of Girls' School for taking the initiative and inviting students from girls' schools across Australia to take part in this exciting venture as individual schools would not have been able to send a total of the twenty five girls needed for the trip. The scholarship was a welcome surprise for our student. It was awarded to Maisie for her passion in this field, her ambition to become an astronaut and the co-curricular activities she has engaged with over the years.

### **National Invention Convention**

Sanjana Aneja has been chosen to represent South Australia at the National Questacon Invention Convention's five day workshop in Canberra during January.

### **Maker Faire**

Mitcham Girls High School registered a stall in this year's Maker Faire Adelaide event held at the Tonsley Innovation Precinct. The Maker Faire is part of a worldwide movement to showcase the range of talented makers in a range of fields. The girls displayed a range of projects that the school has been working on in 2017 which include: First Tech Challenge Robotics Team – The RoboVengers; First Lego League Team; Lamps and Adelaide Eye Ferris from Digital Technologies; Non-Toxic Slime from Science.

As a result of our school's impressive participation the team of girls won the "Girl Maker Award".



## Diary Dates

November	Monday 20	Celebrating Achievement Assembly	12:00pm
	Wednesday 22	Presentation Night	7:00pm
		<i>Edwardstown Baptist Church</i>	
		<i>Rothsay Avenue, St Marys</i>	
	Friday 24	Principal's Tour	9:15am
	Monday 27	Governing Council	6:00pm
	Monday 27 - Thursday 30	Year 10 and 11 Exams	
December	Friday 1	<b>Student Free Day</b>	
	Wednesday 6	Last day of school - Year 10	
	Wednesday 13	Last day of school - Year 8 and 9	
		<i>Reports distributed at 2:20pm</i>	
	Thursday 14	Year 12 (2018) Orientation Day	
		Year Book distributed to Years 10,11 & 12	

## Community News

**WANT A  
\$800 SCHOLARSHIP  
TO GO ACTING IN THE  
CITY OF MARION**

**True North Youth Theatre Ensemble  
is coming to the City of Marion!**

Are you a young person interested in Acting?  
Like to meet people and join an Award winning Ensemble?  
Would you like to get a \$800 scholarship that will culminate with  
a performance created by you at the Marion Cultural Centre?

The pilot project will be 'A Sense of Home' -  
finding the voice of the youth in the ensemble  
and will perform in 2018 at the Marion Cultural  
Centre. True North Marion will provide Youth  
interested in the arts a free, social, collaborative  
and safe place in which they will be able to  
express themselves to teach performance skills  
and practices. It aims to break down cultural  
barriers, promotes self-esteem, confidence and  
provide high level tuition.

The Ensemble is led by Artistic Director Alirio  
Zavarce an award-winning theatre maker and a  
team of arts professionals

**TRUE  
NORTH**

**YOUTH THEATRE ENSEMBLE**

0406991491  
truenortheyouththeatreensemble.com.au  
facebook.com/TrueNorthYouthTheatreEnsemble  
contact@truenortheyouththeatreensemble.com.au

**COME AND TRY**  
any Wednesday night during school term  
6-8pm  
**Marion Cultural Centre**  
287 Diagonal Rd, Oaklands Park SA 5046

20 scholarships valued at \$800 each will be offered  
to young people aged 13 to 17 residing in the  
City of Marion to attend weekly workshops.

AjZ  
MARION