

What, When & Why

@ Mitcham Girls High School

No 9, Friday 23 September 2011, Term 3

From the Principal...

Dear Families,

The end of each term brings about staff changes. Next week we will farewell Ms Vashti Carman and Ms Katherine Wright who will take maternity leave. We wish them well and look forward to their return in the near future.

We also farewell Ms Robyn Stoward who has held a position at Mitcham for one term replacing Ms Sandy Alston who has been on long service leave. We were fortunate to have Ms Stoward appointed to the school given her experience, her love of teaching and the high standards she expected from each student. We wish her all the best for the future but we are certainly sad to see her leave.

Year 12 Students

I am sure that most Year 12 students are experiencing some stress at this time of the year. Nearly all of them will have many tasks to complete before they start preparing for exams. Once again teachers will be running holiday classes and we trust that all students will attend these; the timetable will be published on our website.

Parent /Teacher Interviews

The school will hold the second Parent/Teacher interviews for the year on Wednesday 19 October (week 1 Term 4). Once again bookings will be done on line from Monday 26 September (week 10 Term 3). A circular outlining the booking process was forwarded to all families earlier this week.

We ask you to take advantage of the opportunity to discuss the progress of your daughter with as many teachers as possible. Parents play a significant part in the education of their children and we are keen to work with you to ensure that your daughter reaches her full potential. We would appreciate it if all bookings could be finalised before the end of the Term 3 holidays to allow for better planning and a smoother start to Term 4.

Some parents have expressed the view that perhaps holding interviews in Term 4 may be a little late. We would like to have your views on this by simply sending us an email and telling us whether you would prefer the second interview for the year to take place either:

1. Mid Term 3; or
2. At the beginning of Term 4.

Please email us at info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au

Subject: Parent/Teacher Interviews

Message: My daughter's name is:

I would prefer to have an interview with my daughter's teachers:

Kyre Ave
KINGSWOOD SA
P 8272 8233
F 8373 3013
www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au
info@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au



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

Regards,
Antoinette Jones

New Deadline Policy

In our continual review of MGHS Policies, we have made some changes to our Deadline Policy. These changes affect students in Years 8, 9 and 10. SACE Stage 1 and 2 students work within the structures of the SACE Board.

The old Deadline Policy stated:

- *Students who do not submit work by the due date and have not negotiated an extension will be given a period of 3 days to submit the work. A deduction of 10% of the awarded marks will occur as a penalty for lateness.*
- *If a student does not submit the work during the 3-day period a zero (0) mark will be recorded.*

The old Deadline Policy gave students in Years 8 to 10 the opportunity to submit work up to 3 days after the given deadline. This flexibility within the old Deadline Policy meant that students who *did* meet the deadline were disadvantaged as their peers received more time to complete and polish tasks to potentially achieve a higher result. Senior School teachers also found that when students started SACE Stage 1 and 2, they found it difficult to comply with the strict Deadline Policy of the SACE Board.

After considerable discussion and consultation it was decided that the new Deadline Policy for Middle School students should be aligned more closely with the Deadline Policy of the Senior School students.

The new Deadline Policy will start at the beginning of Term 4 this year. It now states:

- *All tasks must be submitted by the stated deadline.*
- *Teachers are asked to ensure that all deadlines occur on a day when they have that class and the deadline time occurs during that lesson.*
- *When a deadline occurs in the subject teacher's absence, the relieving teacher will be advised and will collect all assessment tasks during that lesson and place them in the absent teacher's pigeon hole.*
- *Students who are absent for an assessment task deadline should arrange for the assessment task to be delivered by a third person, or post it to the teacher at the school (postmarked with the due date) or email it to the teacher with a screen print showing the date and time sent.*
- *If a student does not submit the work a zero (0) mark will be recorded.*
- *Parents/Caregivers are advised in writing when a zero (0) mark is recorded.*

A full copy of the Deadline Policy appears on the schools web site www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au.

Tony Sims
Deputy Principal

Congratulations!

Shannon Ullrich (11.30) competed earlier this month in the Taekwondo Australia Championships in Canberra. Shannon represented South Australia in their 14 to 17 year age group and won a Silver Medal. Shannon has been competing at National level since 2005.

Well done, Shannon!



Science News

Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who participated in the Royal Australian Chemistry Institute Competition:

High distinction	Amy Robertson Kiara Wanner
Distinction	Madison Edwards Madeline Wray

The Year 11 Biology excursion to CSIRO was called 'One Wedding & Two Funerals'. The students responded to a simulation of two deaths from food poisoning and solved the mystery of 'who done it' or rather 'what was the cause'. A series of stations were set up for analysis of bacteria, packaging safety and preservation methods. (It was the milk).



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Eloise Quihampton (11.32) who has been selected by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange to participate in their student exchange program to France beginning November 2011 for three months.

As part of her exchange, she will live with a volunteer host family and attend the local school. Eloise joins 7,470 other Australian students who have ventured overseas with SCCE.



Learn About Yourself!

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist, wrote: "the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes". Host an international high school student in February 2012 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in February for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Scandinavia, Japan and the U.S.A. They will attend a local secondary school, are fully insured and have their own spending money. Call SCCE now on 1800 500 501, email scceaustr@scce.com.au or visit their website (www.scce.com.au) to be part of this rewarding experience.

Health & PE News

Fashion Technology

Once again Fashion students entered exhibits into two categories in the Junior Art/Craft Section at the Royal Adelaide Show.

Congratulations to all girls and, in particular, to the following prize winners for their pencil cases:

- 1st Iqraa Raja
- 2nd Alexandra Steiner
- 3rd Chelsea Lewis

Congratulations also to the following prize winners for their cushions:

- 1st Nicole Lahiff
- 2nd Asifa Kashmiri
- 3rd Shubi Dumra
- 3rd Diandra Brown



A great effort girls!

Julie Tsoukalas

Fashion Teacher

Sport News

Term 3/4 Zone Sport Update

The final Zone Sport competition for the year got underway in week 7 of this term, with teams competing against other schools in our zone including Unley, Pasadena, Marymount, Seaview, Blackwood and Brighton.

Mitcham again has a number of teams taking part in a variety of sports including Year 8/9 Open Volleyball, Indoor Soccer and Basketball.

Thanks to the following staff members who give up their time to coach and manage these teams. Without their help the competition would not be possible.

Year 8 / 9 Volleyball	Robyn Stoward
Open Volleyball – Navy	Bri Parsons
Open Volleyball – White	Scott Gladstone and Michael Finos
Basketball	Mike Elliot
Indoor Soccer	Alex Bambrough

Good luck to all teams!

Chad Alston
Sports Assistant

Sports for Schools

Mitcham Girls High School has 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.

Ski Trip

Ski Trip 2011 was an opportunity for senior students in Year 10, 11 or 12 to travel to Falls Creek. The annual event held each year in September attracted 62 students who, together with 8 staff, had an enjoyable time in the snow.

Students were able to choose between skiing and snowboarding and had lessons each day to help them get started or to brush up some skills from last year's trip. The instructors were friendly and always open to questions. The beginner teachers also got involved with the lessons and enjoyed the sunny days and the spring skiing conditions. By the end of the weekend most were skiing or boarding with ease.

A change of venue this year saw us staying in 5 star luxury apartments with some excellent views from the spa on the balconies. Quay West Resort and Spa offered us excellent apartments, food and facilities including spas, saunas, pools, cooked breakfast each morning and the most convenient facility of all, the ski lift right outside our door. This allowed us to ski home to our accommodation in the afternoon without having to walk around the Falls Creek Village.

Despite some warm weather leading up to the trip, most ski lifts were running which meant that a large amount of terrain was available for us to ski or board on. There was even an opportunity for those who wanted, to do night skiing. Dressed in their glow sticks, our students certainly stood out on the slopes at night!

Students and staff had a good time and this was mainly due to the great group of girls who went along. Their behaviour and friendliness was commented on by a number of people working at Falls Creek.

Planning for Ski Trip 2012 is already underway with applications opening soon.

Kayleigh Mills (11.31) and Tony Sims



Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPSW)

So what exactly is a Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPSW)?

Some of you may be aware that there has been a lot of media attention surrounding the role of *Christian Pastoral Support Workers* in state schools (for many years we were known as chaplains and in all the other states they still are), so I thought I'd explain a bit more about the actual role and tell you what it is that I do here at Mitcham.

School chaplains (or CPSWs as they are known in SA) have been operating in Australian schools since the 1950s. In the past, their salaries were paid for by church and community groups, or through funds raised by school P&Cs. Then in 2006, the Howard Government announced its *National School Chaplaincy Program* (NSCP). The NSCP was continued by the Gillard Government and in 2010 the Government renewed funding for existing services in schools and extended the program in up to 1,000 additional schools.

The NSCP is a voluntary program that assists schools and their communities to support the wellbeing of students. This may include support and guidance about ethics, values, relationships, spirituality and religious issues, the provision of pastoral care and enhanced engagement with the broader community.

The first thing to realise is that schools specifically ask for a chaplain/CPSW – they are under no obligation to have one. In South Australia about two thirds of DECS schools have chosen to have a CPSW. That's roughly 325 schools across the state.

According to the 688 principals who participated in Australia's first ever national study on the 'Effectiveness of Chaplaincy', chaplains/CPSWs helped to build the sense of community in the school, support the school ethos and assist with the integration of potentially 'at risk' students. 98% of principals said that chaplaincy was making a major contribution to school morale; it was proactive, unique, effective and important.

Mitcham Girls High School has had a CPSW (Chaplain) for many years and it is a relationship that continues to grow and develop. My role at Mitcham is very much about supporting people and finding creative ways to build a more cohesive school community. One of the things that is unique about my role is that I am here to support the whole school community – not just the students but their families and the staff as well.

It's important to say that I am not a counsellor and I don't pretend to be. I work closely with our two counsellors and see myself as part of the 'wellbeing team' but I am not a counsellor. Students come to me for a variety of reasons...sometimes they've had a fight with their friend or they failed a test or they're just having a bad day. I listen to them and offer a safe space to pick themselves up and keep on going. In more serious cases I refer them on to one of the counsellors or other services where they can get the support they need.

I am at school three days a week (Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays) and most of my time is spent listening to students, talking with staff, supporting parents, helping to organise events such as the Year 12 Retreat or the 40 Hour Famine, co-ordinating the New Arrivals Community Support Program (a program that brings volunteers from the local community in to school to work with some of our Year 11 and 12 girls who come from non-English speaking backgrounds), volunteering in the canteen and generally looking for ways to enhance the school community.

Mitcham is a wonderful school community and I feel privileged that I am able to serve the school in this way. If you have any questions about me, my role as CPSW or the program itself please don't hesitate to give me a call at school or send me an email: rebekah.brown@mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au

Bek Brown

Uniform Shop

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

Mitcham Girls High School - trading Hours during School Term: Thursdays 8:00am – 1:30pm

or

Uniform Management Services, 109 Rundle Street, Kent Town, telephone 08 8363 5255.

Trading Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

or place an order over the phone.

View the new price list <http://www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au/students-and-parents/uniform/>. In particular, the new price of the winter skirt, **now** \$52.50 (reduced from \$64.90) and the summer dress, **now** \$48.50 (reduced from \$52.35).

Diary Dates

Sept	Friday 23 Friday 30 Friday 30	What, When & Why No. 9 published Year 12 Formal 7:00pm End of Term 3 Reports distributed 3:10pm
Oct	Monday 17 Tuesday 18 Wednesday 19 Thursday 20 Thursday 20 Friday 21 Monday 24 Monday 31 – Wednesday 16 November Monday 31	Term 4 Begins Principal's Tour 9:15am Parent / Teacher Interviews Principal's Tour 9:15am Music Showcase 7:00pm (PAC) Year 12 Celebrations 10:00am – 1:30pm Year 12 Final Assembly 12:00pm Stage 2 Exams Governing Council 7:00pm
Nov	Wednesday 2 – Friday 4 Friday 4 Friday 18 November Monday 21 – Thursday 24 Wednesday 23 Friday 25 Monday 28 – Friday 2 December Tuesday 29 Wednesday 30	Stage 1 Aquatics What, When & Why No. 10 published Whole School Assembly 12:00pm Zone Sport Finals Presentation Night 7:00pm What, When & Why No. 11 published Year 10 / 11 Exams Year 9 Beach Volleyball Year 7 / 8 Transition Day
Dec	Monday 5 – Friday 9 Monday 5 Monday 12 Tuesday 13 – Wednesday 14 Wednesday 14 Thursday 15	Year 10 Work Experience Governing Council 7:00pm Year 8 / 9 Community Service Day Year 8 / 9 Activity Day End of Term 4 Reports distributed at 2:20pm Dismissal 2:25pm Year 12 (2012) Orientation Day