From the Principal…

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2012 school year. In particular we welcome to the Mitcham community the families of the Year 8 students and all other families who have joined us this year for the first time. I am confident that Mitcham will provide the best possible environment for your daughter.

By now all families should have received, through the post, a package which contained a letter from me, a list of MGHS teachers together with their roles and email addresses and a Student Personal Data sheet.

If you have not received it, it is possible that we do not have your current address. Please send us an email with your current address and we will send the package to you.

We have given you the email addresses of all staff so that you may communicate with the relevant teachers about school issues of concern to you and to your daughter. Please be aware, however, that teachers do not access their emails during class time and given that they teach most of the day, they may not be able to respond immediately.

It is extremely important that you send back the Student Personal Data sheet (included in the package) as soon as possible so that we can make all the necessary changes. We also aim to complete our database with the email addresses of all families so that we can communicate with you more readily.

As indicated throughout Term 4 of last year, this year we are very keen to ensure that the length of students’ skirts, dresses and shorts meets school regulations (one palm width above the knee; also measured from the crease at the back of the knee). We have received overwhelming support from parents on this issue and I thank parents for the time they have taken to let hems down.

Important Calendar Dates
With the introduction of the Australian Curriculum, the Department for Education and Child Development has granted all schools an extra two professional learning days.

Our Student Free Days will be held on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Tuesday 13 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Friday 8 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 10 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Friday 23 November</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The School Closure Day will be held on Friday 7 September (Term 3).

Regards,

Antoinette Jones
Principal
From the Governing Council

At Mitcham Girls our priority each year is to create a learning environment in which our girls can do their very best. This environment includes not only the ‘school’ stuff - curriculum and teaching - but also the physical environment, resources available and sense of belonging and community that exists in the school.

This year’s Annual General Meeting, to be held on Monday 5 March, is a great opportunity for you to hear about what we achieved last year and what improvements are planned for 2012.

This year we’re also looking for parents to tell us about the things that matter to them. How can we encourage the sense of community that will support girls becoming the confident and successful adults that we want them to be? What do we need to do to support our children better? These are things that affect our children every day - we’d really like to see as many people as possible come along.

We will be providing drinks and nibbles, so if you are able to attend, please contact the school by phone or email. If you aren’t able to attend, but would like more information, please contact Jenni who will pass the message on to a member of Governing Council who will contact you.

Ilona Double
On behalf of the MGHS Governing Council

SACE Results and Post School Options

We congratulate two students who received Merit Awards in their 2011 studies.

Shanae Brown is the only recipient for Design, Construction and the Community and Amanda Li is one of three students who achieved a merit in Classical Studies. She was also the winner of the South Australian Classical Association Prize. Amanda studied Classics at Mitcham through our Alliance arrangement. Her other subjects were undertaken at Unley High School.

90% of eligible students received a tertiary offer, which is 4% higher than 2011. They have been offered a wide range of courses, with nutrition, pharmacy, law, medical science/vision, architecture, design, education, communications, business, nursing and other health courses among the offers. This year has seen more students opting for a degree in Education than we have seen for many years and we look forward to their careers in the coming years.

Flinders University continues to be the most favoured university for our students with almost 50% of students making it their first preference.

Meg Roddy is the winner of the University of Adelaide Principals’ Scholarship which is valued at $5,000. Meg plans to do a double degree in International Studies and the scholarship will certainly support her studies.

We have nominated a student for the Aberfoyle Park Lions Club Scholarship and hope to have a positive response for this student too.

We encourage students and their families to look broadly for future careers, because there are opportunities for courses and scholarships outside South Australia which can be of great benefit, if you would like to travel.

Sue Howlett
SACE Coordinator
School Processes and Procedures

Mitcham Girls High School is a professional, progressive learning community dedicated to providing outstanding educational opportunities for girls. Our goal is to meet the needs of all of our students and to support them to achieve their potential and make a positive contribution to the world.

As any organisation, to be successful, we rely on all members of the team working together to support procedures.

Our effectiveness depends on staff, parents/caregivers and students following current procedures and we thank parents and caregivers and look forward to your ongoing support in these matters.

All major School Policies and Procedures are outlined in the Student Diary. The following is a brief outline of some of these.

**Diaries**

Please look through your daughter’s diary and sign it on a weekly basis. You will be able to monitor your daughter’s progress and homework obligations through this diary. The school diary is the major method of communication between the student, the school and the home and the inclusion of non-school related material is not appropriate. The diary is a public document, which can be viewed by teachers upon request and as such should be kept in an appropriate state.

**Dress Code**

All students are expected to adhere to the school Dress Code. The School Governing Council, Principal and Staff affirm this decision and seek parent and student support for the Dress Code Policy.

Students and parents/caregivers are informed of these requirements on enrolment and expected to support it. The School Uniform is outlined in the Student Diary. Photographs of acceptable combinations of the uniform and appropriate shoe wear are available on the school website.

Please note: Only three styles of shoes are acceptable, Black lace up leather (or equivalent) school shoes, T-Bar or Mary Jane shoes with Velcro or buckle straps. Elastic straps are not acceptable.
School Processes and Procedures (cont.)

All items, including shoes, are available from the school Uniform Shop. The Uniform Shop at Mitcham Girls High School is open from 8:00am – 1.30pm each Thursday during school term.

Uniforms are also available for purchase from 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday at Uniform Management Services. Methods of Payment: Cash, Cheque, Visa or MasterCard.

Jewellery is not part of the Dress Code. A discrete, inconspicuous symbol of religion may be acceptable. Girls will be asked to remove jewellery or risk having it confiscated. The wearing of makeup and/or nail polish is also not acceptable at school.

As stated in the diary, the length of dresses, skirts and shorts should be no shorter than one palm width above the knee which corresponds to 8 centimetres (also measured from the crease at the back of the knee). We have been working with students and parents during Term 4 in 2011 to address this issue. We will again be working with students and parents throughout the year to ensure dress lengths are appropriate. We hope that families can support the school by adjusting hems as students grow.

Students who do not adhere to the school Dress Code will have the option of borrowing an item of clothing from Student Services.

Incidents of non-compliance will be dealt with through the Behaviour Management process.

**Public Transport Policy**

With so many of our girls travelling distances to and from school we do have the occasional complaint about behaviour on buses. Girls travelling to and from school are expected to follow these guidelines:

- Follow the public transport code of conduct
- Consider the rights of all passengers
- Demonstrate appropriate manners and behaviour
- Keep bags under seats or on laps.

Senior girls are appointed as bus monitors and will report inappropriate behaviour to Year Level Managers who will deal with it through the Behaviour Management process.

**Student Absence**

Any absence from school impacts on learning – students who miss school are often disadvantaged – educationally and socially. Difficulties experienced can range from gaps in knowledge and continuity to missing out on important information, to social isolation as friendships break down.

To support your daughter’s success we ask you aim to make appointments out of school hours wherever possible and to encourage regular attendance.

If your daughter is showing signs of being unwell in the morning it is expected that she will remain at home. The school does not have the facilities to look after girls who are sick and parents will be contacted to collect girls who report to the sick room during the day.

If your daughter is going to be absent please notify the school by a phone call before 9:30am. If an explanation has not been received by 11:00am a message will be sent, via SMS, to those parents/caregivers who have registered their mobile phone number with the school. The absence will also require a written note of explanation on the next day of attendance.
Late Arrivals
Students who arrive late to school are required to sign in at Student Services on their arrival. Persistent late arrivals will incur a community service penalty. Again we ask for your support in encouraging punctuality to school.

Messages
Unfortunately the school Front Office does not have staff available to deliver messages to girls during the day. In the case of an emergency we will endeavour to get a message delivered before the end of the school day.

Cybersafety
A new Cybersafety Policy was developed last year by a large committee of students, parents, teachers and the school’s Police Liaison Officer. It was designed to address the Education Department requirements, and to raise awareness of cybersafety issues within the context of a school.

All staff, students and visitors to the school can only use ICT facilities within the school if they read and sign the Cybersafety Agreements developed for each individual group. This includes the use of personal devices within the school grounds or on school related activities outside of the school.

Access to the school Computing Network, the internet and associated resources is a service provided by the school for educational purposes only and under strict conditions, which must be adhered to at all times. Any breach of these conditions will be dealt with through the Behaviour Management process. This may include the removal of access rights.

Use of Mobile Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices
The use of mobile phones and other personal electronic devices is discouraged during school hours. It is recognised that some of these devices are either inappropriately or potentially disruptive in a school environment and, in some cases, activities may be unlawful or illegal. The school takes no responsibility for mobile phones or other personal electronic equipment that is brought to school. They are brought to school at the student’s own risk.

Students using an electronic device inappropriately will have it confiscated. Please be aware that any suspected e-crime may result in SAPOL intervention.

The school Information Technology User Agreement is in the Student Diary and is required to be signed by all students.

Thank you for your support in these matters we look forward to a successful and enjoyable year.

Tony Sims  
Deputy Principal

2011 Music Showcase / Year 12 Formal DVDs

DVDs of the 2011 Music Showcase and Year 12 Formal are now available and can be purchased direct from PUG Productions.

Contact Leah at leah@aovp.com.au.
International Women’s Day 2012

International Women’s Day (IWD) will be celebrated on Thursday 8 March across the world. IWD is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, present and future. It is a day when women are recognised for their achievements, regardless of national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political backgrounds.

It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.

Throughout the week leading up to the day, not to mention on the day itself, Mitcham Girls High School will be celebrating the 101st International Women’s Day by creating greater awareness of past struggles and accomplishments, by considering the connections students have with inspirational women today and by organising a variety of events on the day for students to participate in, which are to be delightfully accompanied by food and music.

Alex Bambrough

Mathematics Leaders

To continue the successful tradition of providing students with as much support with their mathematics and possible, twenty enthusiastic volunteers from Years 10 to 12 will become our Mathematics Leaders for 2012. This will entail spending one half of their lunchtime supporting their peers with issues that they may have with mathematics. It will run for the whole of lunchtime, every day, for the remainder of the year in Room 12 and we encourage any girls, from all year levels, to consider using this opportunity to their advantage. The Mathematics Leaders will commence their support in week four.

To add to this support, we also have a mathematics teacher in the same room at lunchtime and, as this is effective immediately, any student can come and seek support with their mathematics in a one-on-one format.

The rosters for both the mathematics teachers on duty in Room 12 and, eventually, for the Mathematics Leaders, will be displayed on the door of Room 12 in the coming days.

Alex Bambrough

Mathematics Coordinator

2012 Materials & Service Charge

Thank you to all our parents who have either paid or arranged payment options for their daughter’s 2012 school fees.

This is a reminder that the Materials & Service Charges are to be paid in full by the end of Term 2, 2012.

Parents/Caregivers requiring the option of paying by instalments, due to genuine financial hardship, need to register and sign the appropriate form available from the Finance Office. Arrangements need to be made within 30 days of receipt of invoice.

In 2012 as approved by the Mitcham Girls High School Governing Council, instalment payments must be made fortnightly or monthly. Payments can be made to the school direct by either Bizgate on line or credit card over the phone.

Margaret Neumann

Business Manager
Science News

1st Lego League National Competition
Last year one team from the Year 8 SHIP Science class (The Strawberries) was invited to compete in Sydney on 3 December.

The Science faculty would like to thank the following for their sponsorship & support - BAE & Sage Automation for their transport & mentoring; the Lions Club for their financial support; Mr Mike Poben for the beautiful opal pendent for the raffle; Unley Meats, Mitcham Bakers Delight and Mitcham Woolworths.

After a 17 hour bus trip with three other SA teams they competed enthusiastically and won an award for ‘team spirit’. They also enjoyed visiting Harry Potter at the Power House Museum, riding the Mono Rail, seeing the Bridge and the Opera House. A great long week end!

A special thank you to Ms Vanessa Cole for her dedication and support to the students throughout the competition.

Year 8 Zoo Excursion
On 6 December all the Year 8 Science students travelled by train to the city & enjoyed visiting the Zoo, working in groups and researching a great variety of animals. It was a fun day although the walk back to the train station along the river bank was tiring for both the students and their teachers.

Year 9 Chemistry Spectacular
To celebrate ‘The Year of Chemistry’ all the Year 9 Science students watched some amazing chemical reactions including fire balls, liquid nitrogen and hydrogen exploding. It was a very exciting show enjoyed by all including their teachers.

Helen Marussinszky
Science Coordinator

Year 10 Art
Hi, my name is Rose Harvey. For five months (September 2011 – January 2012) I was in a small town called Mutzig near the large city of Strasbourg in the region of Alsace. Alsace is situated in the North East of France and borders with Germany, so there is a lot of German influence in Alsace.

During my stay I met some really lovely people and made a lot of very good friends I will keep in contact with. I went to school in the Première year, which is our equivalent to Year 11. The subjects were hard, but the atmosphere was amazing. The food was delicious and I really enjoyed going to the extreme in trying new things – snails, frogs’ legs and even sting rays and dried insects! I was in France over Christmas and was able to visit the glorious Christmas markets which come out over the month of December. They served mulled wine, pretzels and crepes, which made it even more special. Not to mention the Christmas lights in every street!

I didn’t really have many bad experiences in France, and loved virtually everything – especially the cheeses! Overall I loved my time and am certain that I will go back there in the future, if only for the food and Christmas markets. I would recommend foreign exchanges, as they provide a great opportunity to make connections with people at other end of the world!!!

Rose Harvey (11.31)

On the 14 September 2011 I left Australia for England with my family. I spent 2½ weeks in England with my extended family; going to my cousin’s wedding and celebrating my Grandma’s birthday. After our holiday in England, we went by train to Paris where we spent three action-packed days exploring the main attractions of the city, such as the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe. It was an amazing few days but I was glad when we could leave the bustle of the city for the secluded but beautiful farm of my aunt and uncle. We were all together there for a week or two, enjoying the spring sun, French cheese and a bit of relaxation before my mum, dad and brother left for Australia, leaving me alone in a strange country and culture. The next few weeks passed without event. I continued to enjoy the nice weather, beautiful countryside and laidback nature of my uncle’s farm.

In late October, however, I left the safety of my family for unknown territories, physically and mentally. I drove to Paris with my aunt and met the group of exchange students. From this point, we split up into smaller groups and made our ways respectively to the different corners of the country, to the North, South, East, West and centre of France. I was chosen by a family in the West, in the small town of Muzillac, in the region of Brittany.

I was quite frightened in the beginning; I had never met, seen or spoken to the family I was to be living with for the next three months. As the weeks passed, I gradually settled in and began to feel comfortable in my host family. I had a host mother, father and 16 year old sister. I attended school with my host sister which was an interesting experience as the French school system is quite different to ours. My host father showed me around the region as much as possible but there wasn’t a lot of time for visiting as I only had two weeks of holidays.

My time there passed very quickly despite the fact that I had previously thought that three months was an almost unbearable length of time to be away from my family and friends. However, I soon found that I felt quite comfortable in my new life with my new family and even a few friends. It was an incredible experience and one that I would definitely do again if I had the chance. I learnt a lot about the culture of France and, in particular, the history and culture of the region of Brittany. I know that I have made a lot of progress in my French. I now have a much stronger grasp on the language and I know that this will be an advantage in my final year of school and also in later life. I believe that this is the best way to learn a language and I definitely want to return to France in the (hopefully near) future.

Eloise Quihampton (12.03)
Hello to all students, parents and staff. My name is Emily and I am the new Sports Assistant here at Mitcham Girls High School. I am really looking forward to this exciting term we have ahead of us and meeting and getting to know you all in the weeks to come.

You can find me in the PE office most days. Please don’t hesitate to come and speak to me with any questions or just to say hello and have a chat!

We have a busy term with Zone Sport which will start in Week 4. Also in Week 4 will be the colourful and competitive Swimming Carnival, held on Wednesday 22 February.

Sports that are likely be running for Term 1 providing we get enough students to fill a team are:

- **Tuesdays 3:30 - 4:30pm**
  - Year 8/9 Volleyball
  - Open Girls Volleyball

- **Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30pm**
  - Year 8/9 Tennis
  - Open Tennis
  - Year 8/9 Basketball
  - Open Basketball

- **Thursdays 3:30 – 4:30pm**
  - Open Indoor Soccer

Thanks to all the parents and staff who have volunteered their time as coaches for Term 1. Without them, Zone Sport would not be possible. Please make sure you attend all scheduled practices which will be held at lunchtimes. The finalised program will be handed out as soon as it is available. If you have any questions please contact Emily Banks or Sandy Alston at the school.

Emily Banks
Sports Assistant

---

**SRC**

My name is Baria Khan and I am the SRC President for 2012. I have been studying at Mitcham Girls for the past four years and have been involved in SRC since Year 8. During these years I have been involved in many areas of the school. I have also gained much confidence from public speaking.

The SRC Executive and I have planned to make this year a very successful one by improving in our leadership role and taking on new challenges.

We will plan ahead and take the opportunity to make our school, community and environment a better place for learning.

**Baria Khan (12.04)**

Hi, my name is Ellie Thomas and I am your new SRC Vice President for 2012. During the January holidays I was lucky enough to attend a Student Leadership Conference in Sydney, where over 150 girls from all over Australia were given an insight into the characteristics of good leadership while make strong friendships we will never forget. I am happy to be part of the SRC and look forward to an exciting year full of great ideas.

**Ellie Thomas (12.03)**

My name is Roxanne Brooks and I am the 2012 SRC Secretary. I have been on the SRC for two years. After my trip to Sydney to the Alliance of Girls Schools’ Student Leadership Conference, I am really excited about being a student leader this year and hope to do the best job I can. If you have any questions, ideas or feedback for the SRC feel free to find me in my care group, 12.01, or talk to me in the yard.

**Roxanne Brooks (12.01)**
Tech News

Congratulations to Kiara Wanner (12.02) on finishing an outstanding project in the Tech Workshop.

Kiara has been an enthusiastic student over the past 4 years in the Technology Studies workshop. She has followed a “horse” theme in her projects. These have included a Year 8 project where she made a wooden note holder in the shape of a horse.

A horse racing scene for her Automata project.

A beautifully crafted jewellery box with a design burnt into the lid with a pyrograph.

In Year 10 students were required to design a CD or DVD storage unit and for this task Kiara chose to follow her theme of horses and took the challenge in designing a magnificent CD rack in the shape of a horse head.

Matt Peters
Tech Teacher
In the last week of Term 4, 2011, the Year 8 and 9 students were involved in the Community Activity Day, making Christmas Decorations for less fortunate people in Adelaide. The girls made 50 beautiful Lolly Wreaths for the Refugee Association to give to local refugee children and 40 Baubles, 60 Bead Decorations, 40 Felt Stockings and 45 Tree Pencils to give to local Aged Care Homes and charities. One such home was having a Christmas Party as Mrs Cole and I delivered the goodies, so the party became that much more special to the residents, receiving a present from Mitcham Girls High School, with personalised notes on each card. Well done girls on making wonderful presents and making someone else happy.

“Karaoke Queens”

As part of Activities week at the end of 2011 students enjoyed singing along to some old and new hits. Ms Steele contributed with some enthusiastic dancing!

We continue to be astounded how low our Limbo competition entrants can go!
## Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>Wednesday 22</th>
<th><strong>Swimming Carnival</strong> 9:00am - 2:30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 27</td>
<td>Interschool Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 29</td>
<td>Year 8 Parent BBQ Evening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>Monday 5</th>
<th><strong>Governing Council AGM</strong> 7:00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 8</td>
<td>Staff Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 8 – Friday 9</td>
<td>International Women's Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 9</td>
<td>Year 10 Aquatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 12</td>
<td>WWW Published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 13</td>
<td><strong>Public Holiday – Adelaide Cup</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 19</td>
<td><strong>Student Free Day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 21</td>
<td>Governing Council 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 21 – Friday 23</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 27</td>
<td>Year 10 Aquatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 30</td>
<td>Year 8 Immunisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 30</td>
<td><strong>Sports Day</strong> 9:00am – 3:15pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>Wednesday 4</th>
<th>Year 10 Risky Business</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 5</td>
<td><strong>End Term 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reports Distributed 3:10pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>