12 April, 2013

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Re: Year 8 Homework Program

As part of Mitcham Girls High School’s commitment to ongoing improvement, we recently completed an overview and survey of the homework program and processes currently in place for students in Year 8.

Of the 91 responses received 87% agreed or strongly agreed that students in Year 8 should be set homework regularly; 54% considered 30 minutes to be appropriate whilst 33% recorded that 60 minutes was appropriate. In considering whether out of school activities should count as homework a clear preference was not indicated.

Accordingly, it has been decided that the school will enact a Homework Program for students in Year 8 and that all students and their parents/caregivers will be made aware of the school’s expectations in this area:

1) Students in Year 8 should be completing at least 30 minutes, but no more than 60 minutes of homework per night. Excluding Friday.

2) Homework will be set according to the following schedule:

   Subject lessons             - Monday 5 and 6
   - Tuesday 5 and 6
   - Wednesday 5
   - Thursday 1 and 3

3) The Homework Schedule is recorded in the student’s diary at the beginning of every week. Due dates are recorded in student diaries as instructed.

4) The set homework should complement work undertaken in class and reflect the learning required by a particular subject area.

5) Out of school opportunities for learning and personal development are valued and acknowledged. Students should use the ‘Ambassador’s Badge’ program as a process for recording and sharing their achievements in areas other than formal schooling. (Information about the Ambassador’s Badge can be found in the student diary on page xvii)
6) Students are encouraged to take responsibility for developing their own interests and skills by undertaking an independent learning task twice per term in order to support the development of practical and useful living skills.

Examples could include: constructing shelving units; making a model; baking a cake; creating a budget; gardening and similar. A process for recording this Home Learning is being developed.

Our school aims to provide opportunities to develop student skills and abilities across a wide range of areas. Some regular and structured homework time will assist in preparing students for Senior School as well as developing personal skills and abilities.

Students and staff will be expected to adhere to the Homework Program and associated expectations from Week 1 of Term 2.

We thank you for your support in this area. If you have further queries please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Zinta Ozolins
Assistant Principal
Middle Schooling

Antoinette Jones
Principal