

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | February 2019 | Term 1



**MITCHAM GIRLS  
HIGH SCHOOL**

## DIARY DATES

### February

#### Wednesday 27

Year 8 Parent Evening  
5:30 – 6:45pm  
Maree Crabbe Parent  
Information Session  
6:45 – 9:00pm

### March

#### Monday 4

Governing Council AGM  
7:00pm

#### Friday 8

IWD / Leadership Induction Assembly  
12:00pm

#### Monday 11

Public Holiday

#### Wednesday 13

Principal's Tour  
9:15am  
Parent Information Evening  
6:00 – 7:00pm  
Mitcham Memorial Library  
131 Belair Road, Torrens Park

#### Tuesday 19

Year 8 Immunisations

#### Wednesday 20

Parent Information Evening  
6:00 – 7:00pm  
Woodcroft Morphett Vale  
Neighbourhood Centre  
175 Bains Road, Morphett Vale

#### Friday 22

Sports Day

#### Monday 25

Governing Council  
7:00pm

#### Wednesday 27

Parent Information Evening  
6:00 – 7:00pm  
Payneham Community Centre  
374 Payneham Road, Payneham

### April

#### Tuesday 2

Parent Information Evening  
6:00 – 7:00pm  
Mitcham Girls High School  
Performing Arts Centre

#### Thursday 4

Dance Performance  
6:00pm & 7:30pm

#### Wednesday 10

Open Day  
9:00 – 11:00am

#### Open Night

5:00 – 8:00pm

#### Friday 12

End Term 1 – Reports Distributed  
3:10pm

## From The Principal

Dear Mitcham Families,

Term 1 is well and truly underway and the first 4 weeks have, as you can imagine, been very busy. New students have settled in well to their surroundings and learning has once again become top of the agenda for the whole school community. Staff are currently in the process of developing their own specific targets for this year, so that everyone is working towards achieving the school improvement goals I mentioned in my Welcome Letter at the beginning of term.

A number of English teachers have recently attended a professional development course aimed at improving students' writing. The program is part of a state-wide initiative and Mitcham staff will use data collected from writing samples to determine how every student can further improve their writing skills.

Mitcham Girls High School is part of the Mitcham Plains Partnership and we work with neighbouring high schools, primary schools and early learning centres to share excellent practice, build the collective professional capacity of the system and learn from each other. At our first meeting the Education Director, Richard Costi, set a clear direction for continuous school improvement, and this year the four partnership high schools will work more closely to ensure that all students receive the very best state school education.

As you know, Mitcham Girls is an unzoned school and, as such, we enrol students from across the Adelaide metropolitan area. This year, in addition to our extensive visitation of primary schools we are holding 4 Parent Information Evenings beginning in March. These information sessions will be held at public venues and will provide prospective parents the opportunity to hear about Mitcham before our Open Day on Wednesday 10 April.

Our Annual Swimming Carnival was held last Wednesday. What a superb day! The girls made a huge effort to dress in their House colours, and many were exceptionally innovative by dressing in funky costumes. I have attended several of these events over the last few years, however, this event demonstrated how inclusive we are as a school.

I am attending the Annual School Principal's Conference this week and am very much looking forward to meeting other school leaders and hearing about the 'bigger educational picture' from a South Australian perspective.

Regards,

**Linda Baird  
Principal**



Kyre Avenue, Kingswood, South Australia 5062  
Phone: +61 8 8272 8233 Fax: +61 8 8373 3013  
Email: dl.0903.info@schools.sa.edu.au

[www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au](http://www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au)



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education



CRICOS Provider number: 00018A

# Science

## CREST (Creativity in Research, Engineering, Science and Technology)

Congratulations to 65 of our students, in Year 8 and 9 last year, who received CREST awards. They worked hard in the last weeks of term to successfully design, complete and report on a practical of their choice.

## NASA Space Experience

Maisie Walker (Year 12 2018) won a scholarship and spent 2 weeks at a NASA Space Experience in the USA late last year. This year, she will commence a Bachelor of Advanced Science at The University of Adelaide.

## Year 11 Science Opportunity

Do you feel passionate about Science? Apply for the International Science School at The University of Sydney from 7-20 July. All transport, accommodation and meals are FREE!

Applications are due by 1 March. For further information students can speak with their Science teacher or view the website <https://sydney.edu.au/science/industry-and-community/community-engagement/international-science-school.html>.

**Helen Marussinszky**  
Science Coordinator

## The Earth Sciences Summer School

Last December, 3 students from Mitcham Girls were among 21 students, 17 of which were girls, who attended the Earth Sciences Summer School. The 8-day program delivered an introduction to a number of Geoscience topics, a range of STEM opportunities within the Earth Sciences and related field work, including visits to a copper/gold mine at Kanmantoo and various other geologically significant locations located on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

## Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)

RYPEN is an Annual 3-day residential leadership seminar camp for 14 to 17 year olds sponsored by the Rotary Clubs within Rotary International District 9520 (SA/NT).

The main aims of RYPEN are to:

- Develop youth leadership skills.
- Deliver engaging sessions in areas of leadership, self-development, team work, conflict management, public speaking, time management, goal setting and other areas of professional development.
- Provide a safe, encouraging environment for self-development and increased self-confidence whilst networking with like-minded peers.

RYPEN starts on Friday 12 April and ends Sunday 14 April in the picturesque setting of Nunyara Conference Centre, Belair.

Visit <http://rypen9520.org.au/> for more information or speak to Mrs Rogers.

## What Mitcham Girls awardees have thought of RYPEN:

*"A great weekend opportunity to meet new people, to make friendships and to develop skills that will be crucial for years to come!"*

*"The leaders were great. They were attentive and understanding and provided us with really cool activities and made sure that everyone had a really good time."*

*"As a result of RYPEN I think I will become more involved in my community and am motivated to take on more opportunities at school."*

**Liz Rogers**  
Science Teacher



# Middle School

## Year 8 Camp

Transitioning into high school can be an overwhelming time for students but our aim at Mitcham Girls is to build a congenial and supportive environment that ensures ongoing success. The recent Year 8 Camp at Wallaroo provided a perfect opportunity for students to establish relationships and build self-confidence. The Wallaroo campsite is located in a peaceful beachside location and the pleasant weather experienced over the week guaranteed a fantastic and fun-filled stay.

Students from Care Groups 8:05, 8:06 and 8:07 attended the first camp from Monday and they were joined by students from 8:08 and 8:09 on Wednesday, who then continued with the second camp until Friday. The camp provided an opportunity for the entire Year 8 cohort to interact with one another mid-week and the 3-hour joint session was a resounding success.

Students were involved in a range of fun team-building activities offered by the Active Education staff, as well as having the opportunity to make wood-fired pizzas, go swimming and try kayaking. Windy conditions on the first camp put a temporary halt to water activities but the girls enjoyed orienteering around a course that highlighted the historical sites of Wallaroo.

Given that friendships are still in the early stages of developing, it was very pleasing to see how quickly connections were established. There were numerous opportunities for laughter and trying new things, and each of the girls should be commended for interacting so well with each other, gaining confidence and developing a sense of being a Mitcham Girls student – the change was quite noticeable by the end of each camp.

Both camps were a huge success and thanks goes to the Year 11 Peer Leaders: Chelsea, Tamrah, Maryam, Deeti, Bethany, Caitlin, Rosanna, Charlotte and Lauren, who provided excellent support during the day and hosted 2 fun-filled evening programs that the students enjoyed immensely.

Additionally, the camp would not occur without the much-appreciated support from the many staff who attended the camps and also assisted in the preparation and organisation – Paul Wise, Ashleigh Tohl, Lee Shaw, Vanessa Cole, Taylor Rubino, Catherine Chambers, Mark Whitehorn, Summer Bowles and Jill Olifent.

**Dana Thomas**  
Year 8 Leader



# Senior School

## SACE Day

The first day of school for Senior School students saw them at the University of South Australia City West Campus for SACE Day. It was a different way to start the year, allowing Senior students the opportunity to learn more about SACE, school expectations and Senior School events. It also gave Year 8 and 9 students the opportunity to begin the school year with fewer students around, so they could concentrate on activities specific to their year levels.

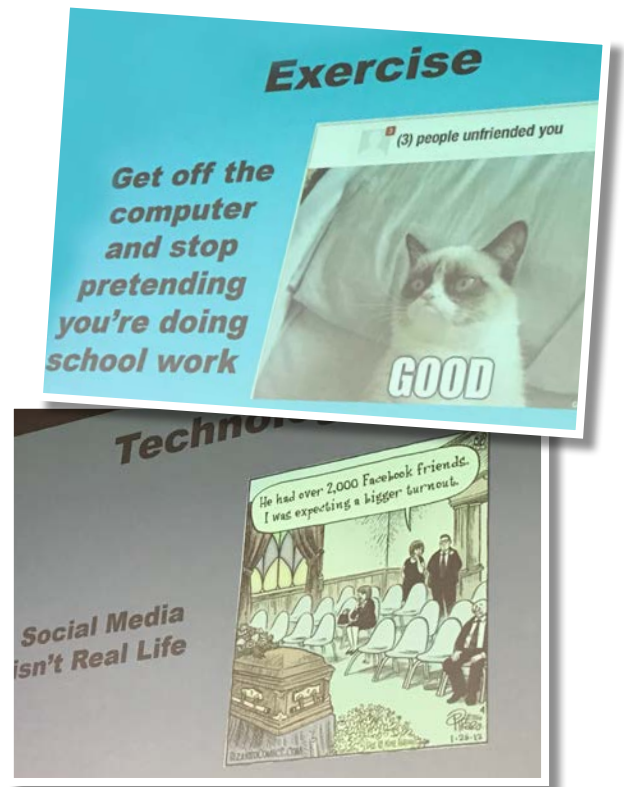
SACE Day sessions were about getting to know fellow classmates and teachers, with students familiarising themselves with SACE and its relevance to each of them. Group sessions in Care Groups and Houses were spent discussing student-led community projects, how we could expand the existing House system, and touched briefly on what students need to do for their own health and wellbeing to assist in their success at school.

All sessions on SACE Day were a starting point for more exploration and discussion throughout the year.

Initial feedback from the students and staff involved was positive and an indicator that it was an excellent start to the 2019 school year.

**Jill Olifent**

**Student Wellbeing Leader and Pathways Coordinator**



# Whole School

## Class of 2018

We congratulate the Class of 2018 on an excellent year. A grades increased by 8% to just over 28% and B grades by 2% to nearly 46%. This indicates that 75% of all grades were in the A and B bands. There were fewer students in the C band and only 3% of students were in the D band.

We acknowledge that success means many different things and we are delighted to congratulate students who achieved their personal best, some of them being the first person in their family to complete their SACE. A number of students also used their Vocational Studies at Certificate III level to complete their SACE, which enabled them to gain a university ATAR.

We are delighted to see the broad variety of courses offered to and selected by our students for further study at university and TAFE. Nine out of 10 students were offered their first or second choice. Additionally, some students have been offered courses interstate. We are particularly delighted that Sydnie Schultz has been successful in gaining entry into the RMIT University, Melbourne, in her chosen area of Fashion Design.

It is also wonderful to see that 25% of our students have been offered courses in the areas of Science and Engineering.

## Art Show 2019: 19 March to 16 April

We encourage our school community to take the opportunity to visit the SACE Art Show to view works selected that showcase the talents of South Australian students. We are delighted that 4 of our past students, Arisha Silverlake, Skye Hartman-Kearns, Chelsie Morey and Elyshia Skingsley, will have works being exhibited.

For details go to <https://www.sace.sa.edu.au/documents/652891/796ec2f8-0b4b-70a5-6024-1f6071cafd47>

The Show will run from Tuesday 19 March to Tuesday 16 April at the Light Square Gallery, Adelaide College of the Arts, from 9:00am – 4:00pm weekdays, and 10:00am – 4:00pm Saturdays.

**Sue Howlett**

**SACE Coordinator**



# Whole School

## World Challenge Expedition to Vietnam

Late last year, 16 students from Mitcham Girls High School participated in a 23-day Expedition to Vietnam, supported by World Challenge and 2 of our staff members.

This is the third time that we have facilitated this program and is a truly eye-opening experience for our girls. It offers students an opportunity to learn about leadership and a multitude of life-skills such as budgeting, communication, negotiating and organisation, as students chose, organised and budgeted for their accommodation, food, transport and daily activities! A truly unique experience for 15 to 17 year olds!



### Summary of Expedition

On arrival in Vietnam only one nights' accommodation was pre-booked for the team and the only transport pre-arranged were the flights in and out of Vietnam and one overnight train trip; the rest was up to them!

Each responsibility, including accommodation, transport, meals and budgeting for the whole group, was rotated with pairs taking a particular leadership role for 2 days before picking up a new role. As a result, each member of the group gained growing confidence in themselves and their overall capabilities.

The expedition was made up of 4 key phases designed to challenge the students every step of the way:

- **ACCLIMATISE** – The first few days are to acclimatise to the new country. This included getting used to the culture, climate, exchange rates, bartering for food and provisions, carrying a backpack and sourcing accommodation and transport. The acclimatisation phase was also a great chance for students to get used to making decisions and taking on responsibilities. This took place in Hanoi, North Vietnam.
- **PROJECT** – The project phase was an absolute joy! The project took place in Mai Chau, only a few hours west of Hanoi where the girls moved copious amounts of sand, cement and bricks to the project site, in humidity well above 80%. Once on site they mixed cement manually, levelled foundations and helped to build an outside bathroom/toilet for an elderly woman within the community. A truly humbling and heart-warming exchange. Development on the project was completed after our departure, as rain inhibited the completion of the out-house before the end of our time in Mai Chau.
- **HIKE** – The trekking phase was an opportunity for our girls to physically challenge themselves. With hiking packs loaded up, we embarked on a 3½ day hike through the small villages and more remote back tracks of the Mai Chau region. It was simply stunning!
- **REST AND RELAXATION** – The last week was largely devoted to rest and recreation; the challengers enjoyed a kayaking trip in Ha Long Bay as well as some time in the beautiful ancient town of Hoi An.

*Continued over*





# Whole School

## World Challenge Expedition to Vietnam *cont*

Participating in the World Challenge Expedition built the students' confidence in managing their own learning. Through immersing themselves in a new culture, students developed a global perspective including differences in diet, environment, hygiene, and living conditions. This experience delivered immeasurable benefit to the students, well beyond anything possible in the classroom.

We are so proud of these girls and would like to officially welcome them back home.

In the coming weeks, current Year 9 and 10 students will be offered the opportunity to participate in a World Challenge expedition in December 2020.

**Kate Ralph and Mike Elliott**  
World Challenge Coordinators





# Whole School

## Peer Leader Training

Following their application to become Peer Leaders, nominated Year 10 students were invited to a day of training on 11 December last year. This was held in the new STEM Centre, allowing plenty of room for different activities. The students discussed their roles and expectations, worked collaboratively to complete some tasks, learned about the difficult things they may have to deal with and divided themselves into smaller groups for their work with Year 8s.

Some of the Peer Leaders attended the Year 8 Camp and took an active leadership role in organising and running the night time programs. The Peer Leaders will regularly visit the Year 8 classes and liaise with the Year 8 Care Group teachers to assist them in Pastoral Care time. Each Peer Group Leader has been assigned to a Care Group with 2 or 3 other Year 11s and will mentor a small group of students within that class.

2019 Peer Leaders: Tamrah Steer, Chelsea Steer, Maryam Mushtaque, Rosanna Barani, Bethany Stidston, Amna Sajjad, Deeti Arora, Caitlin Selge, Remashree Muniandy, Vidhi Jani, Charlotte Whincup, Lauren Chance, Hasini Kapuwelle, Sophie Monahan, Lucy Li, Seunga Lee.

These students will be presented with their badges at the Whole School Assembly on Friday 8 March.

**Jill Olifent**  
Student Wellbeing Leader and Pathways Coordinator



## Premier's Reading Challenge

There are many benefits to reading books – mental stimulation, knowledge, vocabulary expansion, stronger analytical thinking skills and improved literacy being just some. At MGHS, we encourage students to be involved in the Premier's Reading Challenge from Year 8 through to Year 12. In Years 8 and 9, this is incorporated into the English curriculum and we have a high completion rate which has increased significantly over the past couple of years.

Our library has a large collection of books suited to a broad range of tastes and abilities, with books on the PRC list easily identified by a fluorescent sticker. This includes non-fiction, graphic novels and manga.

Parents/caregivers can support their daughters by ensuring they access a variety of books, whether it be through the MGHS Library, public libraries, eBooks or personal collections. Books in other languages can also be included – it's just a matter of reading at a level suited to the student's ability.

We look forward to students getting involved again this year, going in the half-way mark prize draw, seeing if their English class can make the 100% completion goal and earning House points for the Collyer Cup.

**Deborah Dodd**  
Premier's Reading Challenge Coordinator  
Teacher Librarian



# Whole School

## SACE Merit Awards

Congratulations to Skye Hartman-Kearns and Chelsie Morey, Class of 2018, who were awarded Subject Merits at the SACE Merit Award Ceremony at Government House on Tuesday 5 February.

Skye achieved Merits in Visual Art and Psychology and Chelsie achieved a Merit in Visual Art.

The ceremony was held in the beautiful gardens of the Governor's residence and saw students from all over South Australia rewarded for their efforts in 84 SACE Stage 2 subjects during 2018.

**Meredith Arnold**  
Year 11 Leader



# Notices

## Year Book

The Year Book is a collection of experiences, insights and history; something that will provide opportunities to re-visit memories in years to come.

If you would like to purchase the 2019 Year Book, and your daughter is in Years 8 to 11, you can pay \$25.00 to the Finance Office, EFT online or give the school a call and speak to Sue King.

**Jenni Stewart**  
Year Book Committee



## BECOME A ST JOHN CADET

Learn first aid, have fun and meet new friends by becoming a St John cadet or junior with the Mitcham Colonel Light Gardens Cadet Division. We meet every Monday night at the Mitcham Community Centre. [Ages 8-17.](#)

Phone Eugene for more information on 0419 817 366

## Finance: Payment Options

When making a payment to the school there are a number of payment options to choose from:

- Cheque – made payable to Mitcham Girls High School
- EFTPOS – in person or over the phone
- Direct Debit payment plan through the school
- Direct payment through any bank to the school's BankSA account using the Family Code as identification
- Cash

If you have any questions, please contact Sue King on 8272 8233 or email [dl.0903.finance@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0903.finance@schools.sa.edu.au).

**Sue King**  
Finance Manager

## Canteen Volunteers

Looking to make a contribution to your daughter's schooling experience?

We are seeking volunteers to assist in a range of volunteer services:

- Canteen • Library • Gardening

If you would like further information, please call the school on 8272 8233 and speak with Business Manager Chris Stone.