

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | February 2020 | Term 1



**MITCHAM GIRLS  
HIGH SCHOOL**

## DIARY DATES

### February

#### Tuesday 25

Parent Information Evening  
(Marion Bowling Club) 6:00-7:00pm

### March

#### Monday 2

Governing Council AGM 7:00pm

#### Tuesday 3

Parent Information Evening  
(Payneham Community Centre)  
6:00-7:00pm

#### Friday 6

IWD Breakfast – Year 12s 8:00am

IWD Assembly 9:00am

#### Tuesday 17

Year 8 Immunisations

#### Friday 20

Swimming Carnival  
(Marion Outdoor Pool)

#### Monday 23

Governing Council 7:00pm

Stage 1 Drama Production PAC  
6:00pm

### April

#### Wednesday 1

Open Day / Night  
9:00-11:00am  
5:00-7:00pm

#### Monday 6

Dance Performance PAC  
6:00pm & 7:30pm

## Dear Mitcham Families,

We have enjoyed a smooth start to the year; it's been hectic and at the same time very exciting.

This year we have welcomed 353 Year 7 and 8 students to Mitcham Girls along with a number of new staff. The Year 7s travelled to Wallaroo in Week 3 where they enjoyed participating in a number of team activities and getting to know one another. The Year 8s took part in the "Gr8 Night In" last Thursday and Friday, with students undertaking a variety of activities both at school and off-site, giving them opportunities to develop skills in problem solving, collaboration and critical and creating thinking.

### Capital Works

During the Christmas break eight temporary classrooms were installed on the tennis courts. Senior School Care Groups are based in these buildings along with Maths and Languages students.

Stage 1 of the building works will be completed by July and include eight classrooms. Stage 2 will be completed by October and include Reception, meeting rooms, a Fitness Centre and a multi-purpose classroom along with toilets and changerooms. The current Fitness Centre will be refurbished as a second dance studio once the transportables have been removed.

### Parent Information Evenings

Once again, the Leadership Team are conducting Parent information Evenings at various community venues this term. The first was held last week at Mount Barker with the next two at the Marion Bowling Club on Tuesday 25 February and Payneham Community Centre on Tuesday 3 March. At these forums, we inform prospective parents of both Year 7 and 8 students of the enrolment process for 2021 and what the school can offer their daughter.

### Annual General Meeting

The 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held at the school on Monday 2 March at 7:00pm. All parents of the school community are invited to attend. If you would like to nominate yourself or another member of the school community to serve on Governing Council for 2020-2021 we would be grateful if you could return the Nomination Form available on Daymap no later than 3:00pm on Friday 21 February.

**Linda Baird  
Principal**



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**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education



CRICOS Provider number: 00018A



# Middle School

## Year 7 Camp

Building a congenial and supportive environment is paramount to ensuring success at Mitcham Girls High School and the recent Year 7 camp at Wallaroo provided a perfect opportunity to establish friendships and build self-confidence.

CU@Wallaroo is located in an idyllic location, only a short walk from the beach and the warm sunny weather experienced during Week 3 of Term 1 guaranteed a fantastic and fun-filled stay.

Students from 7.05, 7.06 and 7.07 attended the first camp from Monday to Wednesday and were followed by students from caregroups 7.08, 7.09 and 7.10 on the second camp.

Students were involved in a range of fun team-building activities offered by the Active Education staff as well as having the opportunity to go swimming, kayaking and orienteering. The water sports proved to be very popular given the warm and near-perfect conditions.

**Lee Shaw**  
Year 7 Leader





# Middle School

## Year 9 Challenge and Opportunity

The Year 9 students kick-started the school year with the key messages of “CHALLENGE and OPPORTUNITY,” spending the first day undertaking a range of team-building initiatives and problem-solving activities.

The Year 9 students took up the challenge of:

- Taking risks and working effectively as a team to achieve a common goal;
- Listening to other students' ideas and suggestions to see if this approach will be successful, as the care group tried these new ideas to improve upon previous achievements;
- Displaying a growth mindset.

The students also had the opportunity to develop relationships with their peers and work together as a team for the first time. Everyone tried something new and used a range of creative thinking skills and strategies to solve each problem.

Some of the activities included: The Plank Challenge, where students lined up and arranged themselves on an elevated plank without stepping or falling off. Another challenge was The Pipeline; small groups had to transport a ping pong ball from the start to the finish line using only PVC pipe... while making sure the ball was always moving!

The Year 9s have had a wonderful start to the year and have started to build some great relationships. We look forward to even more dynamic learning in 2020.

**Liz Rogers**  
Year 9 Leader



# Sport

Welcome back to the start of a new year in Health and Physical Education at Mitcham Girls High School!

As always, students are expected to come prepared for class with a PE uniform and a participatory attitude. Please make sure to check Daymap on a regular basis for HPE class updates, sport training, try outs, game dates etc.

## Zone Sport

Term 1 has seen our Zone Sport Competition begin once again.

This term, we have two Year 7/8/9 badminton teams playing on Mondays after school and four Volleyball teams (two Open and two Year 7/8/9 teams) playing on Tuesday after school. Play starts in Week 4 through to the end of Term 1. A reminder to students and parents that students are expected to train at lunch hour on the day of their after-school game. Good luck to all involved. Nominations for Term 2 Zone Sport will be on display in the gym later this term and also advertised on Daymap.

## Statewide Schools Competitions

Knockout Sport has undergone a name change and will be referred to as Statewide Schools Competitions from now on. There will be an adjustment period to the new name so you may hear both names for some time. We have nominated a team in Slow Pitch Softball. Netball nominations will occur during Term 2.

## Carnivals

We will participate in carnivals for Open Touch Rugby, Year 7/8/9 Tag Rugby and Open T20 Cricket.

Students interested playing in these sports have been asked to sign up and will need to keep an eye on Daymap for further information. Any student who did not sign up will still have the chance to nominate to play later next term.

## Swimming

On Tuesday 25 February, we have a number of students participating in the “E” grade level Swimming Championships. We wish them the best of luck. Go swimmers!

**Ian Kutschke**  
Health and Physical Education Coordinator

# English

## Premier's Reading Challenge

Is your daughter taking up the Challenge in 2020?

The Premier's Reading Challenge is a literacy engagement program that was introduced by the Premier in 2004 to encourage students to read more books and enjoy reading, and to improve literacy levels. The Challenge requires students to read 12 books by early September and is for all students in years R-12.

How does your daughter complete the Challenge?

Forms are available from her English teacher, the Library and from the website <http://www.prc.sa.edu.au/PRC/>. Please ensure your daughter fills in their student reading record as the books are read and has the books signed off as they go. Completed forms need to be handed to her English teacher or to Mrs Dodd (teacher-librarian) by Friday 4 September.

The Challenge is to read 12 books in total.

In:

- Years 7 to 9, students read 4 books from the Challenge lists and 8 of their own choice.
- Years 10 to 12, students read 12 books of their own choice.

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/carers can support their daughters by ensuring they access a variety of books, whether it be through the school 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 into 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**



# Performing Arts

## Let's Get Physical and Dance 2020

Dance has jumped off to a flying start for 2020, with a warm welcome to our new Dance teacher, Ms Mieke Kriegesvelt, and of course our new students in the Gift and General Dance programs in Year 7 and 8.

We also have students in other year levels exploring Dance for the first time, including International students.

We will be looking forward to some fun events in Term 1, including excursions to performances, the older students performing at the RAA Street Smart High event and of course our school performance at the end of Term 1. This will include ALL students studying Dance at Mitcham and will be held in our Performing Arts Centre on Monday 6 April in the evening.

Parents will be given information about purchasing tickets later in the term.

We are also offering our Come Dance With Us program to Year 6 students with some Dance experience, from various primary schools. This is a 6-week program, commencing on Friday 21 February, 2:30pm-3:45pm. If you know some passionate young dancers, let them know about this great opportunity to

experience Dance at Mitcham Girls High School! Contact Judy Swan [judy.swan833@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:judy.swan833@schools.sa.edu.au) for more information.

Our best wishes also go to the students of the SACE Stage 1 and 2 classes as they embark on their important journey into senior secondary education.

Parents are reminded to have their students well equipped with the correct Dance attire, including the Dance T-shirt, available through the Uniform Shop for only \$20.00. Students in all classes require the T-shirt and a leotard and tights. Any questions may be directed to your child's Dance teacher.

**Judy Swan**  
**Dance Teacher**



# Art

## Visual Arts

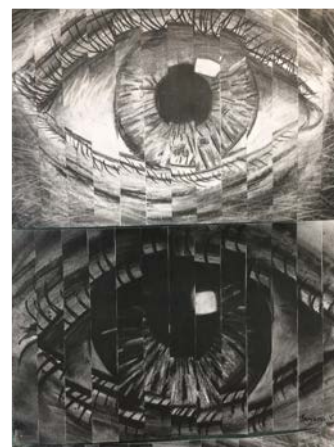
A snap shot of what is happening in Visual Art.

SACE Design - Instant fashion challenge.

Year 9 Art "Eyes" in Charcoal.

SACE Art Water colour "Underwater" Theme - assisted by visiting Artist Kirstie McGregor (Old Scholar).

**Meredith Arnold**  
Arts Coordinator





# Science

## Science 2020

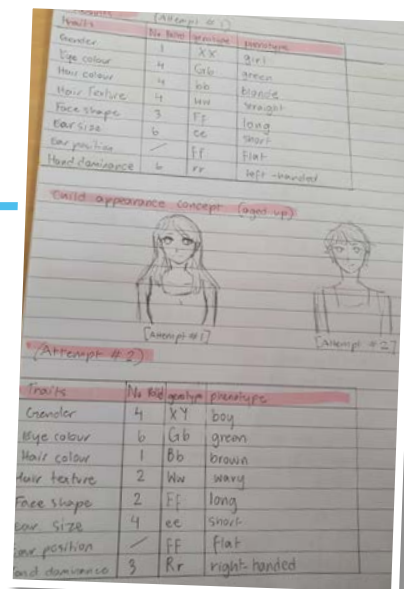
For the Year 7/8 component of science, students have been partaking in a wide range of activities that are designed to develop their problem solving, critical and creative thinking and understanding of real-world issues.

Students have been working on activities related to laboratory safety, safe operation of a Bunsen Burner, developing effective practical skills as well as the ability to write using the scientific method.

Some of the Year 7 classes have had the opportunity to investigate Australia's use of water and how sustainable our current approach is. They've 'audited' the school's science laboratories to determine flow rate as well as building water filters/fountains using everyday materials. They have also had the opportunity to take a 'virtual reality excursion' to Nairobi, Kenya to compare the differences in water quality, access to running water and overall standards of living.

The Year 9 classes have been participating in a range of different topics in the first part of the term. One of the classes has been investigating body systems and have completed experiments involving dissections. Some of the other classes have been looking into electricity and how electrons move through and between atoms. They will begin to explore how circuits function. Another class has been studying atomic theory. They've conducted a range of practical tasks such as creating atoms and using M&M's to represent half-life and radioactivity.

Year 10 Science has been investigating genetics and the probability behind inheriting the different genetic traits such

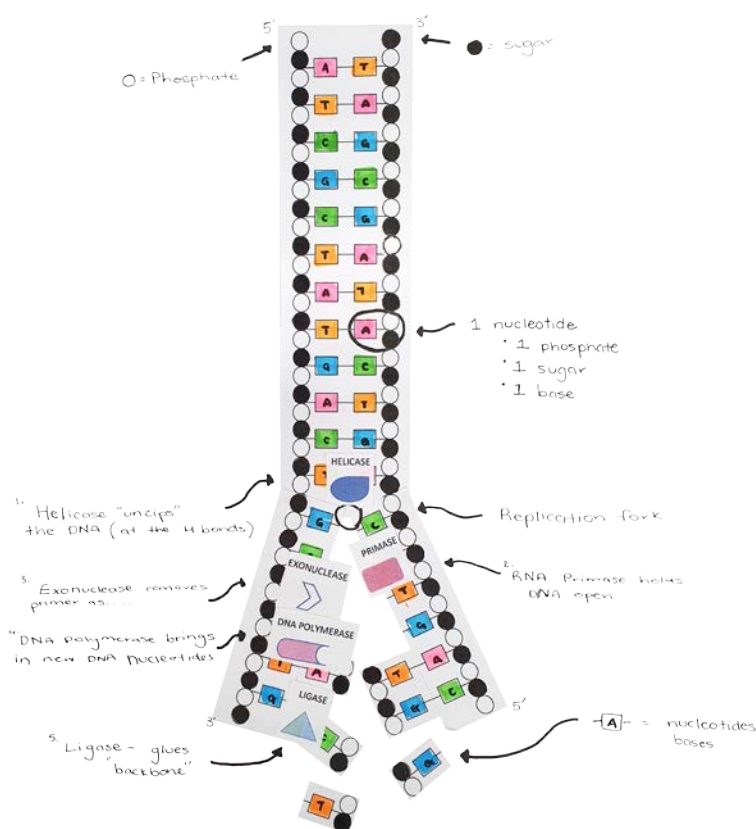


as eye colour, hair colour, height etc. Through this, they've been able to effectively create Punnett squares, identify the difference between dominant and recessive genes and make connections between this form of science and how it can be used to solve real world issues.

Year 11 and 12 subjects have had excellent numbers to start the year. Over 200 students are involved in senior science courses within the first semester. The subjects on offer have included Physics, Biology, Psychology, Chemistry and Scientific Studies. Some of the activities students have been working on consist of DNA replication/extraction, use of stereomicroscopes, investigating projectile motion and momentum in one and two dimensions, ethics and the study of psychological experiments, creating practical investigations, electronic configurations and reactions within different elements.

**David Fargher**  
Science and Engineering Coordinator

## DNA REPLICATION



## Earthwatch Student Challenge

Are you interested in Biology and Ecology?

Would you like to experience hands-on conservation field work?

**Where:** Calperum Station north of Renmark

**Cost:** nil; All transport, food and accommodation are included for FREE!

How to apply?

Go to <https://www.earthwatch.org.au/student-challenge>

Apply before Friday 6 March

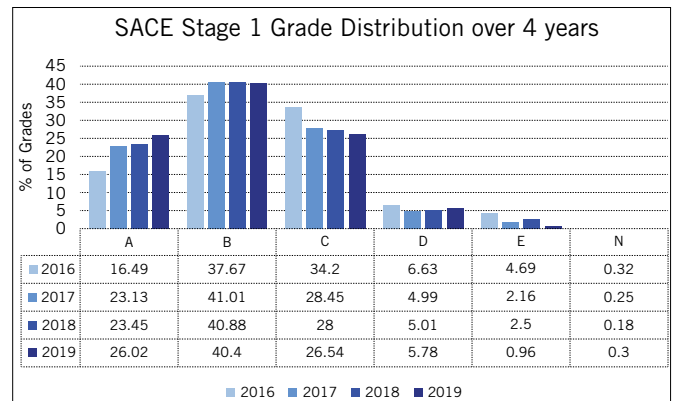
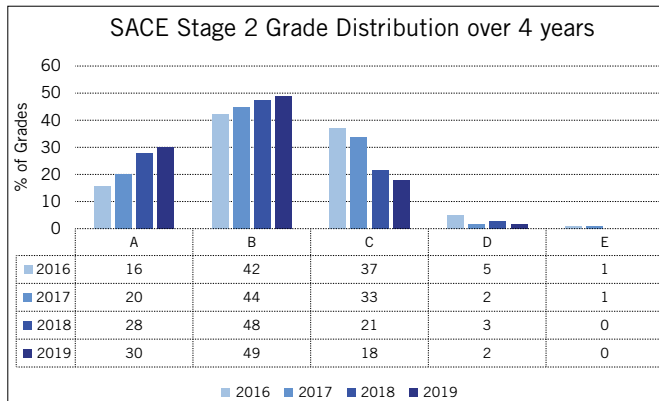
**Helen Marussinszky**  
Science Teacher

# Senior School

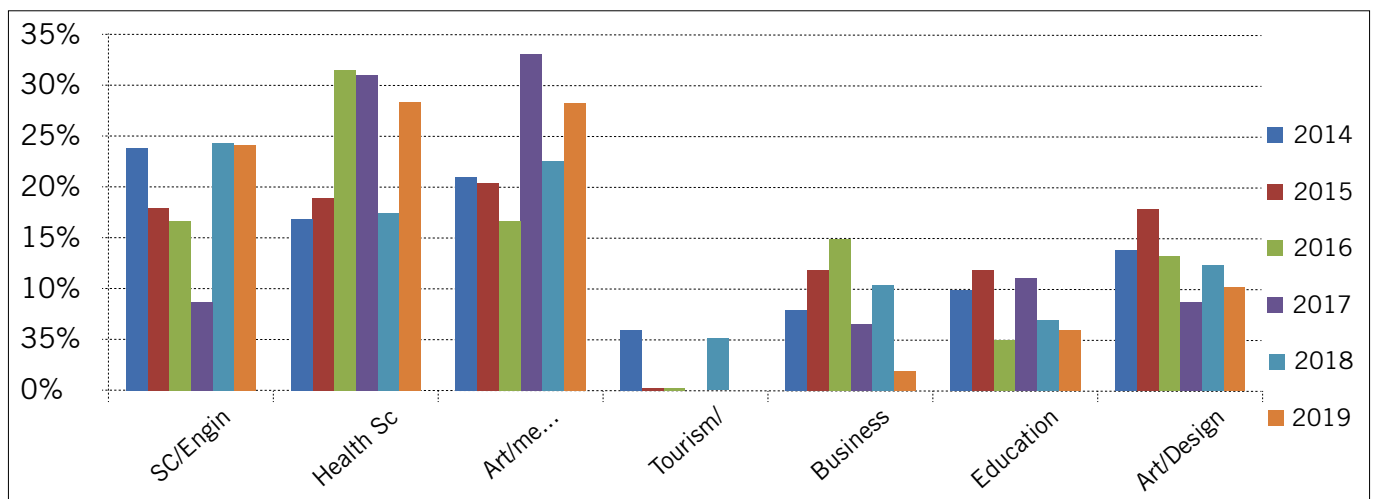
## Pathways for Class of 2019

We congratulate the Class of 2019 on an excellent year.

A grades increased by a further 3% to over 31% and B grades by 2% to nearly 49%. This indicates that 79% of all grades were in the A and B bands. There were fewer students in the C band and only 2% 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 and/or move into challenging and enjoyable career pathways. 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 ten students were offered their first or second choice. Additionally, some students have been offered courses interstate. It is also wonderful to see that 24% of our students have been offered courses in the areas of Science and Engineering with an increasing number of students selecting the health and medical services areas as well.



We are also delighted to inform the whole school community of the success of our school Dux, **Adela Teubner** who studied five subjects for her SACE and was a Merit student in both Visual Arts Studies – Art and English Literary Studies. In addition, Adela was awarded the **Tennyson Medal** for English, an award established in 1901 to encourage the study of English Literature. This is the highest award for English in the state and it is the first time in many years that a student from a government school has won this award. We congratulate Adela who shows all the qualities of a life-long learner. She is curious, extremely hard working, creative and articulate – among the many qualities which have led to her success so far.

We also congratulate Rosanna Barani for receiving a Merit Award for the Research Project.

We look forward to seeing the development of the 2019 cohort of students as well as the progress of our current students.

**Sue Howlett**  
SACE Support



Rosanna Barani



# Senior School

Students in the Senior School have started the year with a flurry of activity. Commencing with the SACE Day at Adelaide University, the girls spent the day focussing on the year ahead and reconnecting with their peers in preparation for a great 2020.

Care groups have been discussing their community projects for Term 1, with some planning random acts of kindness, others growing seeds for Trees for Life and one care group planning a significant make-over for a member of staff.

Students have commenced their studies of Stage 1 and 2 subjects, with learning starting to intensify as they prepare

for their first assessments of the year. Parents are reminded to check Daymap for details of assessments and due dates to ensure that students are well supported as they enter the busy time of the term.

**Sarah Chambers**  
Assistant Principal Senior School



## SACE Day

In a similar vein to last year, the Senior School students had their first day of school offsite.

The reason behind this was two-fold, allowing the Middle School students to ease into their new school without a huge number of students around, and to showcase the University whilst also allowing the Senior School students a chance to start the year in a more relaxed atmosphere.

In 2020 we visited the University of Adelaide, meeting on the Barr Smith lawns, and starting the day in the Braggs Lecture Theatre. Students were introduced to new leaders and teachers in the school and challenged to see how much they knew about the staff by playing Kahoot.

They spent time during the day learning about their peers and new Care Group teachers and developing and planning their ideas for community services initiatives. One of the sessions presented was to familiarise them about SACE and at lunch time they enjoyed the facilities and grounds of the university.

We will be seeking feedback from students regarding the day ready for 2021 SACE Day.

**Jill Olifent**  
Student Wellbeing Leader





# Notices

## 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 (Finance Manager) on 8272 8233 or email [dl.0903.finance@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0903.finance@schools.sa.edu.au).

**Sue King**  
Finance Manager

## Community

**FRIDAY  
27 MARCH 2020**

**Test your skill**

Quiz Master: Rob Elliott

Starting 7.00pm until 10.30 pm at  
St Ignatius Hall

137 William Street Norwood 5067

\$20 per person

Tables of 8 (or join a table)



# QUIZ NIGHT

- ♦ Prizes
- ♦ Silent Auction and Raffle
- ♦ BYO basket of food and drinks
- ♦ Coffee and tea provided

Raising funds for:

Scholarships for Adelaide High School,  
Mitcham Girls High School, The University of  
Adelaide, the University of South Australia  
AND support for the Eastern Adelaide Domestic  
Violence Service; breast cushions for women  
recovering from breast surgery.



Contact: B Newberry 0419 811 609/[bnewberry@internode.on.net](mailto:bnewberry@internode.on.net)