

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 | March 2020 | Term 1



**MITCHAM GIRLS
HIGH SCHOOL**

DIARY DATES

April

Monday 6
Student Free Day

Tuesday 7
Student Free Day

Wednesday 8
Student Free Day

Thursday 9
Student Free Day

Last Day Term 1

Wednesday 29
Year 10 Immunisations

May

Monday 11
Governing Council 6:00pm

Friday 29
Student Free Day

June

Tuesday 9
Student Free Day

Due to the COVID-19 situation the school, on the government's advice, has postponed the following school events:

- Open Day
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Year 12 Formal
- Arts productions

As a consequence, school reports have been delayed and will be distributed at the end of Week 2 Term 2.

Dear Mitcham Families,

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. At Mitcham we took the opportunity to provide activities for students to celebrate our own achievements and discuss what being part of a girls' school means. On Friday 6 March, we held the inaugural Year 12 Women's Day Breakfast. Our senior students invited a significant female to come to school to enjoy breakfast and listen to our guest speaker Ms Louise Miller Frost. Louise's career has spanned strategic, corporate and operational leadership across private, not-for-profit, state and local government sectors as well as working extensively with federal government, largely in the complex health and social services sector. Her speech was truly inspirational.

The breakfast was followed by a whole school assembly where the presentation of the 2019 Dux Award was made by Ms Gay Gardner, sister of the late Robin Millhouse QC, our school benefactor. Adela Teubner achieved an ATAR of 99.45 in her SACE and was a very worthy recipient of this prize. Adela also brought great honour to the school by being the first public school student to receive the prestigious Tennyson Medal for English Literary Studies since 1995. She was unable to attend the official celebration at Government House and so the assembly presented an ideal opportunity to do so.

The Annual General meeting of the Governing Council took place on Monday 2 March. Several new members were elected to represent the school for the coming two years. Thanks were made to the outgoing Chair of the Council, Mr Rob McDonald. Rob has served on the Council for a number of years and we would like to sincerely thank him for all of the work he has done to promote the interests of Mitcham Girls High School. We would also like to acknowledge the excellent contribution Ruth Conry, Kim Fumpson, Sharon Hughes and Mark Cullen made to the school.

Linda Baird
Principal



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Department for Education



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Middle School

Year 8 Gr8 Night In

What better way to get to know your peers than to attend a sleepover with the other 190 girls in Year 8?

The event started with a tour and information session at the Mitcham Library. The girls were introduced to the possibility of accessing free audio books, online magazines, IT support and so much more.

Once we returned to school the staff and peer leaders ran a variety of activities which encouraged students to get to know the school and each other. Swimming, games in the gym, pizza night and a “No Lights/No Lycra” disco with an impromptu dance performance by the Gift dancers were just a few of the highlights.

To end the evening, the girls got comfortable in their beds to watch a movie in the gym. Nearly 200 girls in sleeping bags was definitely something to see (no wonder some chose to make use of the quiet room provided). We did manage to get some sleep.

Friday morning started with breakfast followed by catching the 190 bus to TreeClimb Adelaide. With military precision, groups of 20 girls with their peer leaders and teachers made their way to the tree climb experience. This activity provided the opportunity to develop a sense of personal accomplishment, build confidence and also offered a safe and supportive environment to take risks. The crew at TreeClimb Adelaide were amazing; they encouraged and supported the girls, particularly those who may have been reluctant to begin with. According to Ashleigh at TreeClimb the Year 8s from Mitcham Girls High School were one of, if not the best group they have had. They were also impressed by the level of organisation involved.

Gr8 effort and well done to all the students, peer leaders and staff.

Sarah Gray
Year 8 Leader



Geography Fieldwork

Year 8 Geography students recently had the opportunity to attend an excursion to Hallett Cove Beach.

Students hiked the conservation trail, looking at geological landforms and landscapes. Students had opportunities to learn about the area and its geological significance to Australia and the world, and were able to see firsthand rock types, rock layers and periods of time which are imprinted on the cliffs etc. The girls took plenty of photos and sketched sections of their hike. Students looked at human activity and its impacts on the environment, weathering and erosion and as an extension of their learning, discussed the environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposed beach pool. They then took all their photos, sketches and information gleaned from the hike and completed a booklet.



On Tuesday 10 March Ms Jordan's Year 9 Geography class visited the dolphin sanctuary at the Port River and from volunteers at the Maritime Museum, learnt about the dolphin's habitat and the conditions needed for them to thrive. On a boat cruise along the Port river, students collected data and examined interconnections along the river and the changes which have occurred over time.

On Friday 13 March Ms Clarke's Year 7 Geography class went on a local excursion collecting data and assessing the liveability of the Mitcham area. Students worked in pairs and were assigned a character. They considered the needs and preferences of their character when assessing the local area and will produce a map and an evaluation based on their findings. This was an excellent way to learn about our local surroundings.

Sharyn Clarke
HASS Coordinator

125th Anniversary – SA Suffragettes

On International Women's Day Tasmin Smith (Year 7) and her mother were invited to State Parliament for the Pledge of Honour given by the Mayor of the City of Mitcham, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross.

Facebook post:

"On 18 December 2019 we commemorated the 125th anniversary of the landmark legislation that enabled women in South Australia – for the first time anywhere in Australia – to vote in general elections, AND to stand as members of Parliament.

It was such a thrill for Tas and I to be invited to Parliament House as guests of Mitcham Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross for a special commemoration.

1,000 signatures were collected from SA women and men in recognition of the 11,000 signatures collected in the original petition by the early women suffragettes 125 years ago.

This scroll was presented to the SA Parliament as a pledge.

What an historic day!

To the brave women who fought hard for our rights today, thank you."

Deb Smith
Parent



Ms Carolyn Power MP (Member for Elder),
Ms Tasmin Smith, Year 7, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross,
Mayor City of Mitcham and Ms Jayne Stinson, MP
(Member for Badcoe)

Art



Performing Arts



Middle School Drama in Action

The Year 8 and 9 Drama students have been working on two different styles of Theatre: *Frantic Assembly's* physical theatre style (for Year 9) and creating meaning through using the Elements of Drama (for Year 8).

Both of these studies involved an investigation into the Performing Arts Centre's technology—including the operation and design of sound and lights. Students were challenged to think creatively about how they might develop and tell their story through movement, pace and symbols rather than merely through language. The result was a selection of well-constructed, diverse and meaningful performances that engaged their peers.

Congratulations to these students for their creativity and hard work.

Kate Ralph
Drama Teacher



Science

National Youth Science Forum 2020 Year 12 Program

Congratulation to Caitlin Selge, Maryam Mushtaque and Zuha Faisal who spent two weeks during January at The University of Queensland campus and experienced what being a STEM student is like as part of the National Youth Science Forum Year 12 Program.

The National Youth Science Forum is a 12-day residential program designed to give students a broader understanding of the diverse study and career options available in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The 200 plus participants attended lectures, with many of these being presented by some of Australia's leading scientists featuring cutting-edge science along with workshops, visited science and technology labs and industry and had facility site tours around Brisbane.

This event was an amazing experience for Caitlin, Maryam and Zuha as shown in their reflections below.

The National Youth Science Forum was one of the most incredible experiences of my life, and such an amazing opportunity. I am so grateful to the Unley Rotary Club for sponsoring me because it really was life changing. Not only did I meet some incredible Australians in research and industry, I also made lifelong friends and connections. In fact, my Einstein gang still talks every day, saying good morning and goodnight and planning a road trip to catch up soon. On top of this, the experience has opened my eyes to the world of STEM, and the endless possibilities for my future. Prior to going, I had no idea what I would do after Year 12, and

I still don't. But what I do know is that whatever I choose my future is only beginning, and there will be many exciting turns along the way. My biggest takeaway from The National Youth Science Forum is that I'm no longer apprehensive of the future, but instead I am excited because now that I've had a glimpse of what could be, I want more! I am so thankful to have experienced it and be able to say that I am now a National Youth Science Forum Alumnus. – **Caitlin**

The National Youth Science Forum 2020 was truly the best experience of my life. While science is usually looked at as a boring subject, the National Youth Science Forum made it the most fun thing. All students got to visit scientists currently working on something that could probably change our world, from the cure to Alzheimer's to making vaccines out of spider venom. I would recommend the National Youth Science Forum to everyone that is even minutely interested in science as it opens up so many more career pathways into the work force. – **Maryam**

I would recommend anyone with even the faintest interest in STEM to go to the National Youth Science Forum, since it provided a holistic and well-rounded approach to science and scientific inquiry. The National Youth Science Forum helped rekindle my love for science and helped me explore a variety of careers that stem from a science background while maintaining a relaxed and fun environment that everyone could enjoy. – **Zuha**

Liz Rogers
Science Teacher



Whole School

Library News

Libraries play an important part in our academic and social lives.

They not only provide resources for reading, for pleasure or gaining information, but are a communal place to meet with friends, work on tasks and assignments, enjoy jigsaw puzzles and games and receive study help. Libraries can also provide a sanctuary to just sit and chill or think deep thoughts. We love seeing our students and staff using the library each day for a diverse range of reasons.

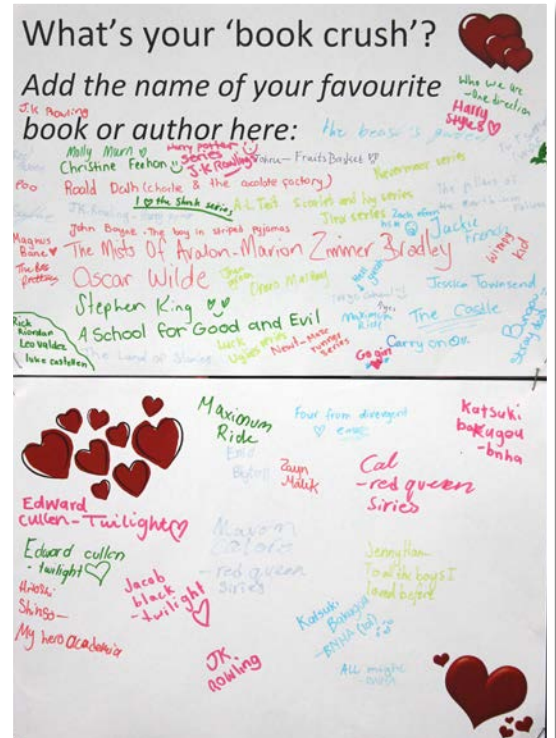
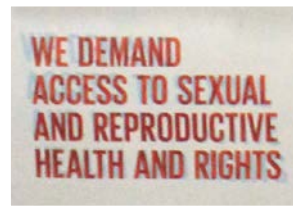
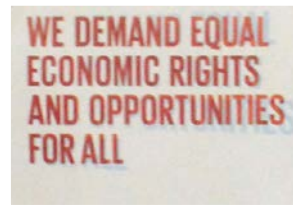
Throughout the year, the Library has displays and competitions for special occasions and events, and we hope our students (and staff!) enjoy coming in to see what's happening.

February 14 means different things to different people. Did you know that in Australia it is Library Lovers' Day? To celebrate, we had a display of red in the Library, with some books having a message for the borrower to receive a small treat. The display board also had a poster for adding the name of a favourite 'book crush' or author, which has been fun to read.

Week 6 saw the celebration of International Women's Day, so our display included books about famous women scientists and mathematicians, women's fight for the vote, Malala, and fiction books based on girls who enjoy STEM or who have had to stand up for various causes in different eras.

Harmony Week was celebrated in Week 8, so again the Library was involved by promoting the theme celebrating Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community.

Deborah Dodd
Teacher/Librarian



End Term 1

The last official day of Term 1 is Thursday 9 April as Easter commences the following day.

However, the government has announced that Week 11 (Monday 6 to Thursday 9 April) is entirely student free. Staff will remain on site to prepare for Term 2.

Whole School

Mitcham Girls High School celebrates International Women's Day

Throughout Week 6, students celebrated and shared support acknowledging the importance of International Women's Day at Mitcham Girls.

Lead by the SRC, students participated in a range of activities during lunch times, including a quiz, film screening and writing supportive letters to one another throughout the week.

On Friday, Year 12 students and their invited guests celebrated IWD with a breakfast and welcomed guest speaker Louise Miller Frost. Ms Miller Frost has been the CEO of Catherine House since 2017 and visited us on the final day of her time there, commencing a new position as CEO of St Vincent de Paul Society this week. Her career has spanned strategic, corporate and operational leadership across private, NGO, state government and local government sectors, as well as working extensively with federal government, largely in the complex health and social services sector.

In her address, Ms Miller Frost encouraged our girls to see life as a marathon not a sprint. While they may not necessarily know where life is heading in the long term, making the most of opportunities that we have now should be our priority. While admitting she was not always the most focussed of students, Ms Miller Frost encouraged our girls and their guests to continue to seek new learning and understand that life might not always take a linear course. She also shared the important work of Catherine House in South Australia, and encouraged our girls to be aware of the realities of homelessness and the most common reasons that this happens.

Following the breakfast, our SRC Executive lead our IWD Assembly which featured a presentation from Year 12 Women's Studies students Maddison Royals and Laura Todd. Additionally, we celebrated the academic success of our students in 2019, acknowledging Merit winners Rosanna Barani and Adela Teubner. Gay Gardner, whose brother Robin Millhouse established the Millhouse Dux Award at Mitcham Girls, was also able to join the assembly and present the 2019 Millhouse Dux award to Adela Teubner.

These events were a wonderful acknowledgment of the importance of International Women's Day and the opportunities at Mitcham Girls High School for our girls to lead and excel.

Sarah Chambers
Assistant Principal Senior School



Whole School

Shrove Tuesday



Whole School

Lions Youth of the Year

Last month, I had the opportunity to take part in the Lions Club Youth of the Year Award, a competition designed to foster leadership, citizenship and public speaking qualities in students aged 15-19.

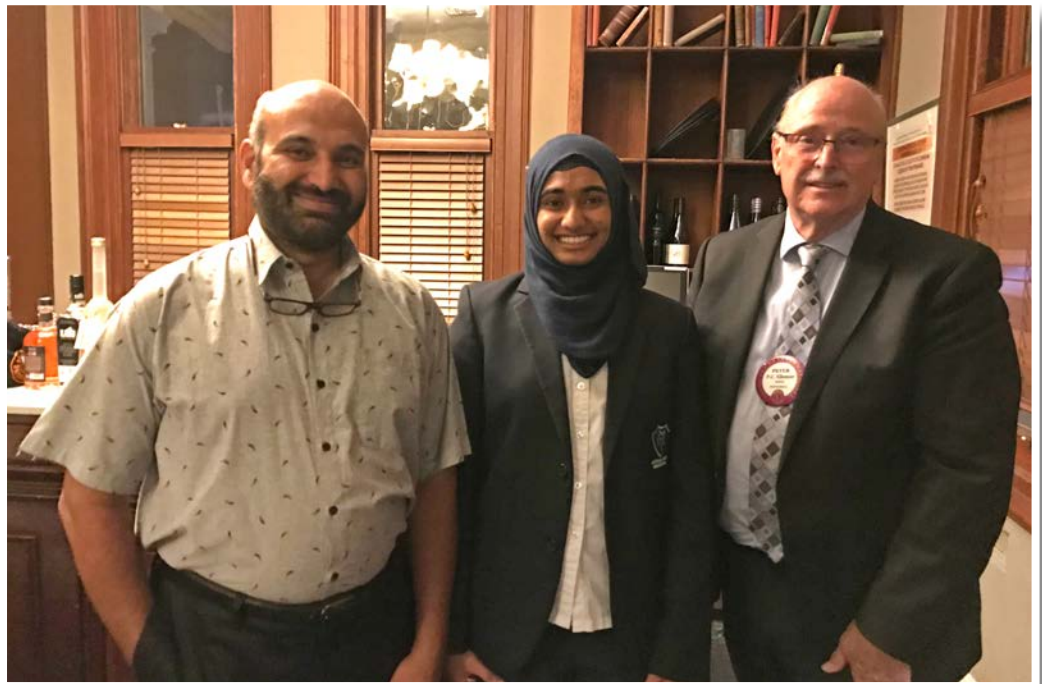
This event is organised by the Lions Clubs of Australia and New Zealand for the development of young people's skills in citizenship and quick thinking.

Youth of the Year holistically evaluates one's school, community and family contributions along with their public speaking skills. Participation in this competition gave me invaluable experience in public speaking, both prepared and impromptu, and discussion in an interview setting, as well as the opportunity to meet other high achievers and Lions members.

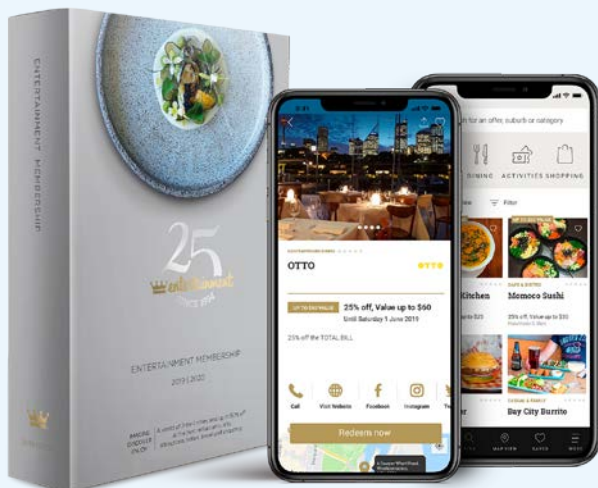
Participants were judged in a public speaking ceremony one evening, and I was fortunate enough to be named the overall winner of the Mitcham Lions Club competition. I am now progressing to the District competition held in Goolwa, where I will compete against the winners of all the clubs in the district. Wish me luck!

Students between Year 10 to 12 are eligible for this fantastic opportunity, if anyone would like to participate next year, or want more information, please contact myself or Ms Clarke.

Zuha Faisal
Year 12



Notices



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