

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 | March 2019 | Term 1



**MITCHAM GIRLS
HIGH SCHOOL**

DIARY DATES

March

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

Year 11 RAA Driver Ed

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

Monday 29

Term 2 Commences

Tuesday 30

Year 10 & 11 Immunisations

May

Thursday 2

School Tour 9:30am

Monday 6

Gift Dance Auditions 9:15am
(Year 8 Intake 2020)

Wednesday 7

Parent / Teacher Conferences
3:00 – 7:00pm

Thursday 8

Parent / Teacher Conferences
3:00 – 6:00pm

Monday 13

Governing Council
7:00pm

Tuesday 14 – Thursday 23

Year 9 NAPLAN Online

Friday 24

Student Free Day
Year 12 Formal 7:00pm

Dear Mitcham Families,

Year 7 to High School Pilot: *Leading the Way*

Mitcham Girls High School has received confirmation that our school will participate in the Year 7s in High School Pilot, running in 2020-21. This is both very exciting and a fantastic opportunity for our school, the Year 6 students considering their options for next year, and all schools in SA as we will be able to inform and guide them in 2022 based upon what we learn in the process.

Obviously, there is a lot of planning to do in preparation for this transition and wheels have already been set in motion! In the last couple of weeks, we have seen the first 2 of 4 Parent Information Evenings, held at Mitcham Memorial Library and Woodcroft Morphett Vale Neighbourhood Centre, to help inform prospective parents of both Year 7 and 8 students for entry next year. Over the next 2 weeks we will conduct the remaining evenings, giving further updates as they arise.

We are currently in a consultation period, where Registrations of Interest are open, and this ends on 24 May; we urge any prospective parents to come along to one of the remaining information evenings. We might not have all the answers (yet!), but welcome as much inquiry as possible to help shape our vision for Year 7s!

Watch this space for further updates on this exciting 'story' or check our website and our social media on Instagram and Facebook.

Parent Information Evenings

Wednesday 27 March 6:00 – 7:00pm

Payneham Community Centre, 374 Payneham Road, Payneham

Tuesday 2 April 6:00 – 7:00pm

Mitcham Girls High School Performing Arts Centre

Mark Whitehorn

Assistant Principal Year 7 Transition



Commencing Year 7 and 8 in 2020 - Registration of Interest now open

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education



CRICOS Provider number: 00018A

Middle School

Year 8 Parent Evening

Given this year's ongoing hot weather, it was pleasing to be able to gather on the top floor of the main building for the Year 8 Parent Evening held on 27 February rather than outside. It was a wonderful environment for enjoying a relaxed meal, chatting to other parents and viewing the photos taken during camp.

Thanks go to the many staff and parents who attended and helped make the evening such a success. This was a great opportunity for parents to meet teachers in a less formal context.

Special thanks must also go to Year 11 Peer Leaders Tamrah Steer, Maryam Mushtaque and Remashree Muniandy, who gave up their own time to help set up and attend to the wonderful food platters.

Dana Thomas
Student Wellbeing Leader

Maths

International Pi Day at Mitcham Girls

In Week 7, students in Year 8 Mathematics celebrated International Pi Day by investigating the natural occurrences of Pi within the world around them.

They then decorated The Millhouse Centre for STEM Innovation with paperchains signifying the first 30 decimal points of the sequence of Pi. Each colour represented a number from 0 to 9 and formed a colourful display of the fascinating mathematical constant.

Stay curious, girls!

Emily Halls
Mathematics Teacher



Science

National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) Year 12 Program

Year 11 students are invited to apply for the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) Year 12 Program, to be held in January 2020.

This 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).

While at the program students will live on campus at the Australian National University, tour science and technology labs and sites to experience facilities and learn about research being conducted, engage with industry partners and research providers and mix with other like-minded students from all over Australia.

Application process: Students applying for NYSF 2020 are required to submit an application through the NYSF website by 31 May. For more information go to www.nysf.edu.au.

Rotary Clubs can also be contacted to support students with their applications.



National Youth
Science Forum

Big Science Competition: Years 8 to 10 Students

This Australia-wide competition is for students in Years 8 to 10.

Try your skills with the online test. It's a 50-minute multiple choice competition testing critical thinking and problem-solving skills, not just factual recall.

Collect an entry form from the Science office skeleton. Cost \$7.70, to be paid to the Finance Office by 12 April.

Womad RiAUS Science Event

Ms Rogers' Year 8 Science classes enjoyed a podcast talking to Monica Gagliano, Associate Professor of Evolutionary Ecology at the Sydney Environment Institute.

They were curious about her research; how plants communicate, what they are saying, and the ethics of eating plants given this new knowledge.

Year 11 and 12 Biology Class Visitor

A friendly (harmless) snake from Warrawong Sanctuary was a welcome visitor to the Biology classes who were studying biodiversity in Week 7.

Helen Marussinszky
Science Coordinator



Sport

Zone Sport

Term 1 has seen our Zone Sport Competition begin once again. This term, we have 1 soccer team and 2 badminton teams playing on Mondays after school. Good luck to all involved.

Nominations for Term 2 Zone Sport will be on display in the gym later this term.

Beach Volleyball Carnival

On Wednesday 6 March, 2 Volleyball teams competed in the Beach Volleyball Carnival at Glenelg. Weather wasn't on-side for the day, with cold temperatures, wind and even rain making playing conditions rather difficult at times. Both teams represented MGHS well and displayed good skills and sportsmanship throughout the day. One team made it through to the finals but were unfortunately outplayed in a close encounter. Well done to all girls involved.

Knockout Sport

Next term will see the beginning of the Knockout Carnivals. We have nominated teams in a number of sports including Softball, Netball, Football, Touch, Soccer and Badminton. Students interested playing in these sports have been asked to sign up for individual sports and will need to keep an eye out on Daymap in Term 2/3 for further information. Any student who did not sign up will still have the chance to nominate to play later next term.

Stephanie Henson
PE Coordinator

Lizzie Anderson
Sports Assistant

Interschool Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday 26 February, 20 students from Mitcham Girls attended the Interschool Swimming Championships held at the SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre at Marion. These students were selected based on their success at our school Swimming Carnival held the previous week, where students who placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their event had the chance to go onto the next level.

After winning the competition for our grade in 2018, we were moved up to the next one for this year's competition, which meant we were competing against a much stronger field. MGHS students competed against other schools from within the state including Heritage College, Eastern Fleurieu School, St John's Grammar School, Waikerie High School, Lower North Schools, Kapunda High School, Cabra Dominican College and St Martin's Lutheran College.

All students represented the school extremely well and held their own in the pool in what was a competitive field. A number of individual students performed well and earned places for their events. Overall, it was an extremely successful day in the pool for MGHS and we as a school placed 2nd in our grade.

Well done to all girls involved!

Michael Finos
PE Teacher



Sport



Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday 20 February, Mitcham Girls High School held their annual Swimming Carnival with all 3 Houses - Fraser, Mitchell and Spence, going head to head to claim glory in the pool. The weather was perfect, making for a great day to spend in and around the pool.

All competitors, whether it was in the championship swimming, relay or novelty events, gave it their all to get their House as many points as possible. The stands got louder as the day went on, as those watching and supporting their team mates did their bit to get them over the line, which created a fantastic atmosphere around the pool. By recess there were only 2 points between 1st and 3rd, so the afternoon battle was fierce. With points even throughout the entire day, positions were constantly changing between 1st and 3rd. It all came down to the final race to determine the overall winner for our 2019 Swimming Carnival!

At the end of what was a fantastic day for all, Mitchell won the Junior School Championship. Fraser took out the Senior School Championship and proved to be the dominant team at the end of the day, taking out the overall title of MGHS Swimming Carnival Champions!

Well done to all competitors; your participation and the excitement you brought made for an excellent day. A big thank you to all staff who assisted with the running of the day including set up and pack up, to all House Captains who organised their teams and finally to all parents and families who attended to support their daughters. An extra thank you to the PE faculty for their teamwork in the lead up to what was an extremely successful day.



Championship Points

Junior

Mitchell – 263 points
Fraser – 235 points
Spence – 224 points

Senior

Fraser – 280 points
Spence – 267 points
Mitchell – 239 points

Overall

Fraser – 515 points
Mitchell – 502 points
Spence – 491 points



Age Group Champions

Congratulations to the following students who were winners and runners up in their age group, based on points they won for their House in Swimming Championship events (Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke and Butterfly).

Year 8

Winner –
Nicola Strever, Mitchell
Runner Up –
Zoe Draper-Nickolai, Spence

Year 9

Winner –
Alice Joyce, Fraser
Runner Up –
Rosie Thompson, Fraser

Year 10/11

Winner –
Asha Foster, Spence
Runner Up –
Nicola Lieff, Mitchell

Year 12

Winner –
Amelia Thompson, Fraser
Runner Up –
Ella Nixon-Dores, Spence

House Captains

FRASER

Year 8 Suhani Jagpal / Carmela Greenwood
Year 9 Rosie Thompson / Taylah Brennan-Jones
Year 10 Ane Van Der Merwe / Izzy Haines
Year 11 Rosanna Barani / Tamrah Steer
Year 12 Amelia Thompson

MITCHELL

Year 8 Maddy Geerts / Emeli Rivett
Year 9 Christina Mower / Kate Frith
Year 10 Madeline Walpole / Madeleine Wallace
Year 11 Bethany Stidston / Annalise Stidston
Year 12 Hayley Meyer

SPENCE

Year 8 Mia Anderson / Jamie Hinrichsen
Year 9 Cadence Cooper / Amber McKellar-Stewart
Year 10 Michaela Collins / Hayley Adams
Year 11 Poppy Craig / Zarlle Lynch
Year 12 Claire Collins

Stephanie Henson
PE Coordinator

Lizzie Anderson
Sports Assistant



Performing Arts

Drama Excursions! It's Festival Time!

The Adelaide Festival of the Arts and the Adelaide Fringe have provided Stage 1 and Year 8 and 9 Drama classes with the opportunity to witness two outstanding theatre performances and a workshop: *A Man of Good Hope* by Young Vic and Isango Ensemble and UK Theatre Company "Sleeping Trees", with their performance *Western*.

In Week 6 of Term 1, Stage 1 Drama experienced the imaginings of the Adelaide Festival show *A Man of Good Hope*; an epic true story of a refugee, Asad Abdullahi, as he journeyed from North to South East Africa, taking him from childhood through to adulthood. The story was told by a 22-member cast along with powerful music that seemed part opera, part musical. The production touched on some of the world's most charged contemporary issues such as human trafficking, migration, poverty and xenophobia and brought them into the spotlight. It is a modern African odyssey, rich with fresh insights into resilience and survival. A truly breathtaking experience for our girls!

In Week 7 we were fortunate to have the Adelaide Fringe Festival come to MGHS! The Year 8 and 9 Drama students viewed a performance by our guests, UK Theatre Company "Sleeping Trees", entitled *Western*. *Western* was a parody show that incorporated devised storytelling, physical theatre and sketch narrative. The actors had the audience laughing from beginning to end! Following the performance, the students participated in a fun workshop facilitated by the company. With the focus on

how to develop comedy, the students worked on characterisation, tableaux, voice, mime and physical comedy. Towards the end of the workshop they even created some poetry for their small group performances! The workshop was demanding and rewarding, teaching the drama students that hard work can be a laugh, and you can achieve great results in the process.

Still to come in Term 1, the Stage 2 Drama class will be attending the first of many State Theatre Company performances throughout the year. The first, *The Club*, originally written by David Williamson is such a well-known play that is embedded within the Australian psyche. Now, in 2019, the production takes on a new twist; produced with an all-female cast... "*this bold new imagining of the 1977 classic, by isthisyours? is daring and unashamedly irreverent...*" it is said to be "...a razor sharp theatrical reinvention that flips the script on an Aussie Classic". To say the least, we are really looking forward to this one!

Kate Ralph and Kerry Jordan
Drama Teachers



Whole School

Community Opening

On Saturday 16 February, talented Year 12 Music student Adela Teubner entertained the crowds at the re-opening of the Mitcham Memorial Library.

Not only did she represent the school, displaying her considerable singing and guitar skills, but promoted Mitcham Girls to the local community.

Thanks Adela.

Meredith Arnold
Arts Coordinator



International Women's Day / Leadership Assembly

A Mitcham Girls High School we take great pride in being strong, vibrant and empathetic women.

We celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) by inviting our Year 12 Executive SRC members to join staff at the International Women's Day Breakfast held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The staff and students were amongst the country's largest event celebrating IWD. Senator the Hon Penny Wong hosted the event while Jane Caro was the special guest speaker. Our students felt inspired and confident to follow their dreams after listening to Jane's message.

At school we hosted an International Women's Day / Leadership Assembly. We heard from the 2018 Dux recipient, Alina Jansons, and inducted our student leaders for 2019.

Summer Bowles
Assistant Principal Middle School



Street Smart High 2019

Information for parents

Help your child be Street Smart

The facts

On average 83 drivers under the age of 25 were killed on South Australian roads each year between 2013 and 2017

Learner drivers have few crashes because they are always under supervision. But, once they have passed their test, and can drive unsupervised, their chances of crashing increases dramatically.

- Once a young driver gains their P-plates, their crash risk increases 20–30 times.
- Male drivers aged 16–19 are 34 per cent more likely to be involved in a crash than females of the same age, despite there only being 5 per cent more licence holders.
- Between 2013 and 2017, 3,560 18 year olds were involved in a crash compared to 2,043 48 year olds.

Why?

Lack of experience

As new drivers gain more driving experience their crash rate begins to fall.

Attitude

Young drivers, especially men, tend to be over confident and are more likely to drive in risky ways: too fast, too close to the vehicle in front and dangerous overtaking. Young drivers consistently rate their own performance as above average and are more likely to regard 'good' driving as the ability to master the controls of the car at higher speeds.

Hazard perception

Young drivers often have excellent vehicle control skills and fast reactions. But, they are poor at identifying potential hazards and assessing risk, and tend to overestimate their ability to avoid hazards and crashes. It takes new drivers up to two seconds longer to react to hazardous situations than more experienced drivers.

Peer pressure

Young drivers, especially men, who carry friends are more likely to have a crash.

So what can I do?

The role of parents cannot be underestimated in our efforts to reduce the road toll. Parents are key influencers in the development of safe driver beliefs, attitudes and actions. So what can you do to help your child be a safer, smarter driver?

- If your child is driving unsafely, talk to them about your concerns and why it's important to take road safety seriously.
- When your child begins to drive unsupervised, set boundaries so that they are clear as to what your expectations are.
- Encourage them to drive safely and to speak up if they feel their friends are driving unsafely.

