

NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 | August 2020 | Term 3



MITCHAM GIRLS
HIGH SCHOOL

DIARY DATES

August

Monday 17 – Friday 21

Science Week

Tuesday 18

Year 8 and 9

Parent-Teacher Conferences

4:00 – 7:00pm

Wednesday 19

Year Reflection Day

Thursday 20

Casual Day

Friday 28

Sports Day

September

Wednesday 2

Year 10 and 11 Course Counselling

2:45 – 8:00pm

Thursday 3

Year 10 and 11 Course Counselling

9:00am – 3:00pm

Friday 4

School Closure

Monday 7

Pupil Free Day

Monday 14

Governing Council 6:00pm

Tuesday 22

Year 8 Immunisations

Friday 25

Year 11 Road Safety Awareness
Program

End Term 3

(reports distributed 3:10pm)

Dear Mitcham Families,

We have recently had Departmental feedback on our Year 7 to High School Pilot program and both students and parents have been highly satisfied with the educational experience of the girls who chose to enrol early. This feedback was further echoed at our Parent-Teacher Conferences last week. Parents and carers provided staff with exceptionally constructive comments, and as teachers it is wonderful to be given positive reinforcement about our work and wonderful school.

We are in the process of beginning a new transition process as part of the second year of the Pilot, and in spite of COVID-19 prohibiting us from holding our annual Open Day and Parent Information Evenings, interest from prospective parents has been exceptionally high.

Last week was Wellbeing Week and a number of events were organised both at a class and whole of school level to recognise that we really value the importance of health and wellbeing across the school. The entire week was organised by the Year 12 Health class and the SRC culminating in a Wellbeing Carnival on Friday.

Our school improvement journey continues to be at the forefront of our work as education professionals, and staff are actively using evidence-based teaching practices to measure student learning outcomes through a learning sprint model. This is where teachers identify a small improvement and collect pre and post intervention data as a measure of the improvement initiative.

From a COVID-19 perspective, we are continuing to follow Departmental and SA Health advice and take appropriate action to protect both students and staff.

Kindest regards,

Linda Baird
Principal



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Government of South Australia
Department for Education



CRICOS Provider number: 00018A

Middle School

The Middle School has been a busy hub of learning over the last few weeks! All students have jumped back into their learning with enthusiasm and energy. It has amazed us, how resilient our younger learners have been – they have really impressed us and are a credit to Mitcham Girls.

Lots of exciting events, projects and lessons have been happening and here is a flavour of these from each year group.

Year 7 Silent Disco

In Week 3, Year 7 students participated in a silent disco.

The aim of this event was to engage with students, get them to have some FUN, and leave them feeling refreshed, capable, and empowered, simultaneously boosting morale for students and staff.

Increasing movement and the opportunity to safely play and relax helps the students to settle back into a routine and restores calm in their lives. This activity combined movement through dance and music therapy, as well as mindfulness meditation.

Lee Shaw
Year 7 Leader



Middle School

Year 8 Care Group Program

It's hard to believe that it is already Term 3, Week 4.

We have now finished all our Healthy Minds Sessions with Dr Tom Nehmy. All parents would have received the parent modules via email. The final email had a survey link for parents to complete. Any feedback would be welcome as it can provide us with information to improve student learning and wellbeing.

The girls have had the opportunity to develop their thinking skills and practice specific strategies to help them manage the different aspects of their own mental health.

The Year 8 Care Group sessions will now focus on Positive Education through the delivery of the Learning Curve Program. This program is run in conjunction with your daughter's Student Diary. Lateral thinking and problem solving will also be included this term; this will involve a variety of classroom activities as well as inspirational stories and videos.

I hope all Year 8 families are happy and well; we are certainly living in challenging times.

Sarah Gray
Year 8 Leader

Year 9

Welcome to Ms Dospisil and Mr Campbell-Horne who are the new Care Group teachers of 9:02 and 9:04 respectively.

Congratulations to the following students who received awards based on their Semester 1 report.

Academic Distinction Recipients

Emily Bryce	Dakshyani Muniandy
Della Crawford	Mia Patrick
Caitlin Dabnet	Emeli Rivett
Ashleigh Edwards	Kelly Spreitzer
Thamara Galindo Gutierrez	Carla Strever
Maya Harvey	Nicola Strever
Rianna Herring	Rebecca Trezona
Laiba Khokhar	Sanjana Varakavi
Isabel Leach	Georgie Wooller
Maggie Lenger	

Academic Credit Recipients

Ayesha Andary	Marlo Macaulay
Amitie Duval	Kaitlyn Monahan
Madison Geerts	Jasinta Morriss
Airlie Goldsmith	Dana Mostafa
Carmela Greenwood	Sarah Murphy
Tasnim Kabir	Lily O'Brien
Isabella Kamau Kigotho	Sriya Pillay
Sarah Khaliq	Holly Warncken
Charlotte Langbein	

It was extremely pleasing to see the increase in students who obtained these awards and strive to reach their personal best and excellence. Of particular note were the fifty nine students who received the Endeavour Award being recognised by the majority of their teachers as consistently showing positive attitudes in class in regards to:

- Using Class Time Effectively
- Engaging in Learning
- Being Organised
- Completing Set Work

This represents 47% of the Year 9 cohort.

The focus for Term 3 in Care Group will be looking at skills required for the future and subject selections. As the students are moving from the Middle School to the Senior School there are a lot of subject options and pathways available to them as they prepare for the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

Liz Rogers
Year 9 Leader

As you can see, it's business as usual in the Middle School with learning and teaching still at the centre of everything we do! We encourage you to discuss your daughter's learning at home and discover all the fantastic effort they have been putting in at school and we thank you for all of your continued support.

Mark Whitehorn
Assistant Principal Middle School

SRC

During Week 4 of this term, Mitcham Girls High School celebrated Wellbeing Week.

Wellbeing Week is an important event in our school year and is focused around educating students about the many forms of wellbeing. For this week, the SRC planned smaller activities for lunch times throughout the week including colouring and painting, crafts, origami and music in the courtyard. These activities were all designed to calm and focus students, as well as allowing them a safe space to create and innovate. We held a small carnival on the Friday, with stalls and activities, designed to celebrate the occasion and allow students to enjoy themselves- another important aspect of wellbeing.

To help fundraise for GROW, the SRC held a Wacky Socks Wednesday for Wellbeing. On this day students and staff wore wacky socks, and provided a gold coin donation which will go towards the GROW Initiative for some of our younger students supporting them with forming and maintaining friendships.

A sub-committee of the SRC is working towards improving school pride in regards to the uniform. Compliance to the uniform code has been slipping amongst the student body, and the Executives are working with interested SRCs to help increase student pride around the proper wearing of the uniform. Discussion and feedback with students has allowed us to identify the main issues: one of them being that specifications around school uniforms are not clear with students and teachers, which breeds inconsistency and confusion. The hope of this group is to identify gaps in the current Uniform Policy, and places where confusion may arise, and ask for rules around them. These findings will be communicated to staff and students, and we hope to create a new blanket policy which everyone, students and staff alike, can follow to ensure consistency throughout the school.

Caitlin Selge and Zuha Faisal
SRC Co Presidents



Maths

Maths FUN

Mrs Rogers Year 7 Maths class has been having FUN learning about geometrical concepts and proofs and the concept of Beyond All Doubt (BAD) as they have developed their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

A highlight was working in the Millhouse Centre to make their own set of FUN letters from pop sticks to explore the relationship and properties about the angles formed when a straight line crosses a pair of parallel lines. A great hands-on learning activity with BAD FUN had by all students.

Liz Rogers
Maths Teacher



Science

National Science Week

In Week 5 of this term, the school will be running activities to promote National Science Week. The theme of this year is 'Deep Blue' to make students aware of real-world issues such as protecting the ocean environment, marine biology and sustainability.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities both during Care Group and during lunch time. Some of the activities include: Mr Elliott's 'Deep Blue Care Group Kahoot', a 50-word short story competition where the theme is 'The Ocean' and an arts challenge where students create an A4 poster that showcases either a slogan or the creation of new technology that supports protecting the marine environment.

There will also be two lunch time challenges: a STEM-based task where students work in small groups to create a 'float house' using everyday materials that can withstand a series of tests as well as an 'estimation 180 guessing challenge'. All activities will offer prizes for the best entries and House points for every participant.

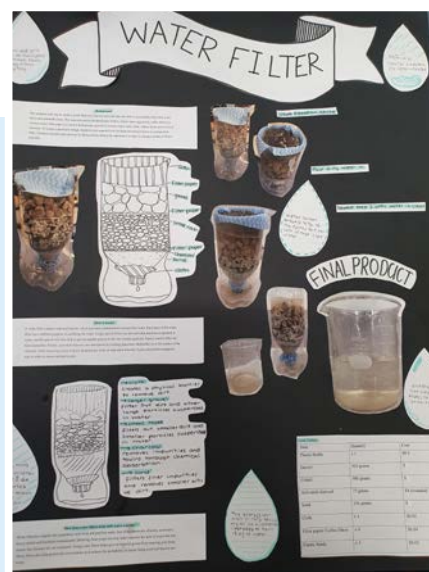
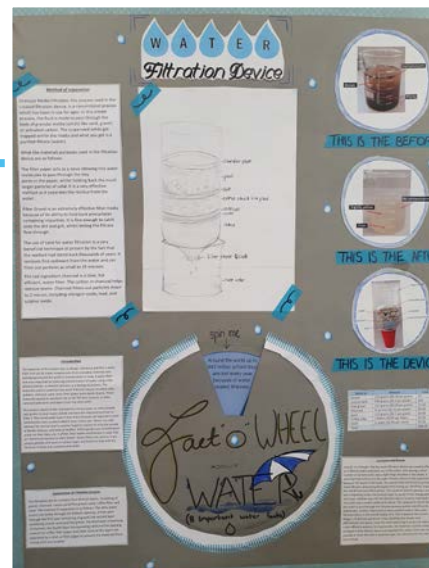
Year 7 Science / STEM

The Year 7 classes have switched semesters and are now looking at different focuses in Year 7 Science/STEM.

Three of the classes are looking into the STEM aspect where they're investigating water quality, sustainable water usage and how developing countries obtain clean water. They've been demonstrating their understanding through the design and creation of water filters using everyday materials.

The science focused classes have been looking into laboratory safety, how to effectively conduct experiments and the key components involved in scientific writing. Students have had the opportunity to use Bunsen burners, and test chemical reactions using magnesium and hydrochloric acid.

David Fargher
Science Coordinator



2020 Cochlear Aurora Photo Contest

The Cochlear Aurora Photo Contest theme 'Science is Everywhere!' provides a wonderful opportunity for students to consider science through a creative lens, while inspiring girls to explore STEM disciplines.

High school students are asked to take photos to reflect the theme and provide a brief explanation (200 words or less) sharing the meaning behind the photo, or why they have chosen to represent science through this image.

Photo submission guidelines:

- Convey the fact that **'Science is everywhere!'**
- Be creative, unique and eye-catching.
- Be taken by the student.

Judging criteria:

- Entries will be judged on the quality of the photo, creativity of the concept, clear communication and explanation of the photo.
- Judging will be based on the weighting as follows:
60% Photograph, 35% Description, 5% Title
- Judges' decisions are final

Students are only allowed to enter one photo; multiple entries are not permitted.

The 2020 competition closes at 5pm Monday 28 September 2020.

Liz Rogers
Science Teacher

Technologies

Christmas in July Morning Tea

In Week 2, Miss Shaw's Stage 1 Food Technologies students held a Christmas in July morning tea for the staff at Mitcham Girls High School.

Students worked in small groups to select and prepare Christmas themed finger foods and transform the textiles room into a winter wonderland, recreating that elusive wintry Christmas experience.

They were required to choose a recipe which provided opportunity to demonstrate a high level and range of skills, with an emphasis on professional presentation.

Lee Shaw
Technologies Teacher



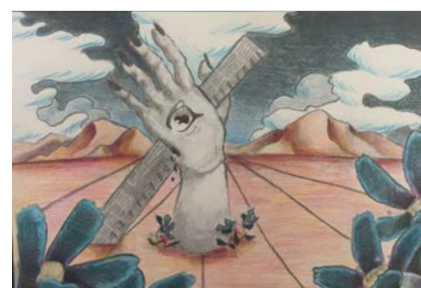
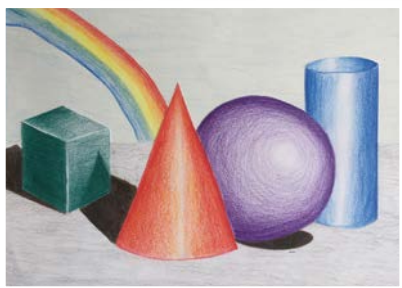
The Arts

Music



The Arts

Art



The Arts

Performing Arts



New Look Dance Showcase 2020

COVID-19 strikes again!

It is with great disappointment that I give you this news.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions at the Scott Theatre, we are unable to present our showcase performance for parents and friends this year, originally scheduled for Sunday 13 September.

After much consideration we have decided instead to present a performance in the school's Performing Arts Centre on Thursday 10 September. All Dance students will be required to attend rehearsals during the day, and the performance in the evening. Due to limited space we are unable to invite parents to this performance, but copies of the performance will be available to purchase after the event.

Specific details about the arrangements for this performance will be disseminated via a letter to parents within the next week or two. We can assure you we intend making this an exciting event for your daughter, complete with pizza for dinner, provided by the school!

If you are a parent of a Dance student, please put this date in your diary and look forward to hearing about the alternative plans for our showcase! COVID-19 will not defeat us!

Any questions in the interim may be forwarded to Judy Swan, judy.swan833@schools.sa.edu.au.

Judy Swan
Dance Teacher

Sport

Term 3 started with a large number of Statewide Competition (formerly known as 'Knock Out') events and Zone Sport events.

Statewide Competition

Mitcham Girls High School entered three Statewide Competition netball teams (Year 7, Year 8/9 and Open). All teams played well.

Unfortunately, our efforts weren't enough to advance to the next round. Thanks to all who tried out and practiced at lunch time. In addition, thanks to the House Captains who were instrumental in the selection, officiating and coaching of the teams. Thanks also to Mr Finos, Ms Henson and Mr Kutschke for their coaching support.

Our Statewide Competition Badminton team narrowly missed advancing to the next round with a tie breaker needed against Seaview High School. Thank you to the girls for practicing and giving Seaview a tough challenge. Thanks also to Ms Greenshields for coaching.

Our Year 7/8/9 AFLW team, coached by Mr Fargher and Mr Brooks, had a successful outing as Mitcham Girls High School hosted its first AFLW game in more than 15 years. On 3 August Mitcham etched out a hard-fought victory against Adelaide Botanic High School and followed up with a convincing victory against St Aloysius College. Congratulations and we wish them luck in the 2nd round. Go Mitcham Girls!

The AFLW Open team has yet to play a game and is automatically entered into the 2nd round. Good luck Open team!

Zone Sports

Mitcham Girls High School has three Zone teams, Open Badminton and Year 8/9 Netball with a 'B' division team and a 'C' division team.

All netball games are played at Priceline Stadium each Wednesday afternoon. The Open Badminton team either hosts or visits the opposing schools on Tuesday afternoons. Thus far, all three teams have been met with stiff competition but our Mitcham Girls Zone teams have remained committed to doing their best in the face of adversity.

Upcoming Events

Sports Day will soon be upon as Mitcham Girls High School gears up for the annual event to be held on Friday 28 August.

It will be our first whole school event this year so we are looking forward to Spence, Mitchell and Fraser showing their House colours, sportspersonship and competitive spirit.

Ian Kutschke
Health & PE Coordinator

Senior School

Future Pathways

There is a new section on our website under Curriculum called 'Future Pathways' where we will regularly update information about career pathways and opportunities for students whilst at school.

There will be updated information about Tertiary Open Days, alternative pathways for tertiary study, school based apprenticeships, employment and new courses. Go to www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au/curriculum/future-pathways.

This information will also be distributed to students on Daymap in daily messages.

Also under the Curriculum section is an excellent site www.mitchamgirlscareers.com which has information about making choices regarding pathways. This site and its resources is used by PLP classes, and is available to all students.

If you have any queries about VET courses, tertiary pathways, SACE, SATAC or any other pathways information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Jill Olifent
Student Wellbeing Leader & Pathways Co-ordinator



Dental Assistant Traineeships

SA Dental Service is offering approximately 30 Dental Assistant Traineeship positions at clinics across the state. The 12-month Traineeship contract includes on the job training and attendance at TAFE where you will gain a Certificate 3 in Dental Assisting while earning \$17,371 - \$36,099 a year.

If you are 17 – 24 years of age (or up to 30 years if Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander) and have finished year 11, you may qualify for a Traineeship.

Applications open 28/08/2020 – 18/09/2020 for the February 2021 intake.

For more information, visit: www.sahealthcareers.com.au
(Search Job Number: 726091 at this website from 28 August – 18 September to apply.)

Whole School

Building Works Update

Stage 1 of our \$5M building program at Mitcham Girls High School is now complete.

This saw the demolition of our old dance studio and a number of grounds sheds, and the relocation of our main electrical board in readiness for the new wing. Stage 1 also saw the creation of a new dance space in what was previously our fitness room that we have named the Black and White Studio. Staff and students are already enjoying the space which has been kitted out with professional barres, mirrors, a sprung floor and sound system.

Visit our [Facebook page](#) for a video walk through.



- 1 General Learning Area
- 2 Reception
- 3 Meeting Room
- 4 Serviced Learning Area
- 5 Multipurpose/Fitness
- 6 Store
- 7 Toilet
- 8 Change Room
- 9 Deck



Stage 2 of the redevelopment is scheduled to be completed for the start of the 2021 academic year and will see a new wing built along our eastern boundary with Rugby Street. This building will be comprised of eight general teaching classrooms, a new reception and entrance to the school, a larger teaching/multi-purpose space along with a new fitness centre and change rooms that will service the swimming pool. A modular method of permanent construction has been chosen to make sure we have the facilities in place in a relatively short time frame.

Chris Stone
Business Manager

Whole School

Future Pathways, Course Counselling and Subject Selection for 2021

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 have commenced preparations for their subject selections in 2021 and over the last few weeks have attended on-site presentations from the University of Adelaide, UniSA and Flinders University.

These presentations have been offered by the universities to support students in finding their future pathway and identifying what they might need to do to achieve this.

Additionally, the 2021 **MGHS Curriculum Guide** is now available on the website and we have further developed our resources this year, with all our SACE teachers recording a personalised interview about their subject. Links to these and other useful video guides are available via <https://www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au/curriculum/sace-subject-selection-videos/>

To select subjects for 2021, students in Years 9, 10 and 11 use a program called "Web Preferences". Web Preferences allows students to lodge their subject selections online directly, which reduces incidences of lost paperwork and data entry errors.

Students have been emailed personalised log in details and subject selection instructions for Web Preferences to their school email address. As part of our course counselling process Care Group teachers have explained the course counselling processes and timelines, and in many cases have accessed Web Preferences during Care Group time.

Once subjects have been finalised in Web Preferences, we ask that a receipt be printed, signed by a parent/caregiver, and returned to the Care Group teacher. This ensures the subjects selected are completed in conjunction with a parent/caregiver as we encourage them to discuss subject selections and post-school pathways with their daughter.

Students in Years 10 and 11, and their parent/caregiver(s), will have the opportunity to discuss their subject selections with trained staff members on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday 2 September or during the day on Thursday 3 September. Appointments will be conducted using Microsoft Teams online and can be booked via the school website in Week 5.

Our Year 12 girls will be supported over the coming weeks through the SATAC selection process and university/TAFE and other future pathway options identification. We have set up the "Conversation Corner" where members of our Senior School Team will base themselves in the Study Room to provide support and advice during independent study sessions. We have also developed the **Future Pathways** tab on our school webpage where we have located useful links and resources for our students.

Sarah Chambers
Assistant Principal Senior School

2021 Subject Selections

We are at that time of year again when students are preparing to select subjects for 2021.

This is an important time of the year and we endeavour to give students as much information and time as possible to make appropriate subject selections based on interests, skills and ability and future pathways. We support students through this process via the Care Group Program in every Year Level, and with course counselling appointments for current Year 10s and 11s.

When choosing subjects, students should keep the following points in mind:

- Do I like this subject?
- Will I be challenged by this subject?
- Will I enjoy studying this subject?
- Will this subject provide the future pathway I am interested in?
- Will the combination of subjects I choose keep my options open?

I strongly urge students to undertake an honest self-assessment of their strengths to maximise learner success and assist in making wise and informed choices. I encourage students to seek information and advice from teachers, counsellors, past students, Year Level Leaders, websites and other sources, and not be influenced by peer pressure.

Remember:

- It's okay not to know what you want to be and leave your options open.
- It's okay not to be in all the same classes as your friends, you might make new ones.
- It's natural to take more control over your choices as you move through high school.

Parents have an important role to play in discussing subject choices at home and ensuring that students meet deadlines for online submissions. Mitcham Girls High School's timetable has always been based on maximising student choices, so it is important to ensure you try and get your subject choices right, as there may be limited opportunity to make changes later.

Although every effort is made to satisfy student choices, not all combinations of subjects are possible. Subjects can only run where student numbers and staffing deem them viable.

Good Luck.

Tony Sims
Deputy Principal

Whole School

Lemonade Stand

In Week 4 of Term 2 students from Care Group SSM:T1 prepared and served homemade lemonade in the courtyard at lunch time as part of their community project.

This was a free activity aimed at uplifting the spirits of everyone at Mitcham Girls High School after the upheaval of the COVID-19 restrictions. Our Care Group worked together to produce litres and litres of zesty lemonade and hundreds of students lined up for a taste.

The students really enjoyed the opportunity to give something without expecting anything in return. Thank you to those who donated the lemons.

Dana Thomas
Care Group SSM:T1



Notices

Entertainment Book

Have you experienced an Entertainment Membership?

For a limited time, our school community is invited to trial the Entertainment Membership for 6 weeks!

Entertainment Memberships are packed with thousands of incredible savings across local dining, activities, travel and shopping experiences. You can enjoy more of what you love for the best value.

Start your trial and start saving today:

- No payment details required
- It's easy to register, simply go to www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/161m056
- Download the Entertainment App from the App Store or Google Play and start using
- 6 week trial only available between 24th August – 6th September 2020.

After you have discovered the value of an Entertainment Membership, you can support our school by purchasing a Membership to receive 12 months of incredible savings.

Already love the Entertainment Membership?

Purchase your Membership today and support us to reach our fundraising goal for 2020.

Simply order online through our school's order page:
www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/161m056

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sue King on 0437 961 595.

Community

Hope Ward Tennis Club Open Day

Club Tennis - Players Wanted (all ages)

Hope Ward Tennis Club (an ANZ Hot Shots Club) has vacancies for Junior and Senior members of all standards for the 2020/21 Summer Season (commencing mid-October). A family friendly club offering social and competitive tennis.

Interested... then come along.

OPEN DAY

Sunday 30 August

11:00am to 1:30pm

(includes free sausage sizzle from 12 noon)

Enquiries:

Seniors	Madeline Hill	0421 195 983
Juniors (Boys)	Dean Sincock	0403 875 040
Juniors (Girls)	Emma Ziersch	0409 671 754

Hope Ward Tennis Club
Tweed Street, Cumberland Park

www.hwtc.com.au

