

NEWSLETTER

Issue 7 | December 2019 | Term 4



MITCHAM GIRLS
HIGH SCHOOL

DIARY DATES

December

Wednesday 11

End Term 4

Year 8 & 9 Reports distributed 2:20pm

Thursday 12

Year 12 Orientation Day

Year 11 reports distributed

January

Tuesday 28

Term 1 commences

Senior School SACE Day

9:15am – 3:00pm

(University of Adelaide)

February

Monday 3

Year 8 Parent Evening

5:30 – 7:45pm

Monday 10 – Friday 14

Year 7 Camp

Monday 10

Governing Council 7:00pm

Thursday 20

Year 8 Gr8 Night In 1:30pm

Friday 21

Year 8 Gr8 Night In

Monday 24

Governing Council AGM 7:00pm

Dear Mitcham Families,

I have now reached the end of my first year as your school Principal and in that time I have been on a huge learning curve. I have loved every minute of being part of the Mitcham Girls High School community.

As you know, we as a school will welcome both Year 7 and 8 students in 2020. This is an exciting time for Mitcham Girls High. Our Peer Leaders have really set the scene and have been outstanding advocates for the school.

Work will begin on our new building at the beginning of 2020 and by Semester 2 we will have new classrooms, a dance studio, changing facilities for the swimming pool and a new Fitness Centre. Later in the year, at least one of our Home Economics classrooms will also be completely refurbished. The facilities will be state of the art and I would very much like to thank the representatives from DfE, architects and builders who are working collaboratively with us to ensure that we will have temporary classrooms for as short a time as possible.

I would like to thank you all for making my first year here such a memorable one and look forward to continuing our journey together in January.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Linda Baird
Principal



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Government of South Australia
Department for Education



CRICOS Provider number: 00018A

Whole School

Celebrating Achievement Assembly

On Monday 18 November, students in Years 8 to 11 were acknowledged for their academic endeavours, involvement in community service as well as specialist subject awards at the Celebrating Achievement Assembly.

In addition, a large number of students were acknowledged for their continued engagement in the Premier's Reading Challenge and Science competitions. Students in Year 8 through 11 were also recognised for their commitment to service via the school Ambassador Badge Program with several of our Year 10 and 11 students receiving second level Gold badges.

Colleen Tomlian
Year 12 Leader

Award Winners 2019

Subject Merit Awards	Name
Biology	Amelia Thompson
Business & Enterprise	Eloise Waters
Chemistry	Hannah McGrath
Dance	Erin Shore
Drama	Abbie Aylett
English as an Additional Language	Kim Thien An Pham
Essential English	Adelaide Cooper
English	Abbie Aylett
English Literary Studies	Adela Teubner
Food & Hospitality	Megan Peartree
French	Lauren Chance
Health	Eloise Waters
Digital Media Technologies	Adelaide Cooper
General Mathematics	Katherine Hatchard
Mathematical Methods	Hannah McGrath
Music	Adela Teubner
Physical Education	Jade Doherty
Physics	Hannah McGrath
Psychology	Adela Teubner
Research Project 1	Rosanna Barani
Research Project 2	Tamrah Steer
Scientific Studies	Jade Doherty
Specialist Mathematics	Hannah McGrath
Visual Art Studies - Art	Adela Teubner
Visual Art Studies - Design	Selina Wang
Vocational Education and Training	Brianna Wallmann



Year 11 Award Recipients

Awards

Award Winners 2019

Major Award Recipients	Name
Long Tan Award - Year 10	Isabella Saba
Long Tan Award - Year 12	Hayley Meyer
ZONTA Scholarships	
Zonta Scholarship – Year 10 to 11	Elizabeth Davis
Zonta Scholarship – Year 11 to 12	Saskia Walsh
Soroptimist International Eastern Districts Youth Award	
Soroptimist International Eastern Districts Youth Award - Year 9	Ashlee Greig-Brown
Soroptimist International Eastern Districts Youth Award - Stage 1	Caitlin Selge
Dantalis Award	Lauren Chance
Ann Millhouse Scholarship	Alana Dawes
Hughes and Loveday Sports Award	Claire Collins
Rotary Performing Arts Award	Abbie Aylett
Adelaide Festival Centre Arts Award	Abbie Aylett
Adelaide Festival Centre Arts Award	Emily Ritson
Mitcham Inter Church Council Commitment to Study Award	Brianna Wallmann
Leading Ambassador Award	Claire Collins
Elliott Citizenship Award	Michela Skipp
Caltex Medal	Hannah McGrath
2019 Student of the Year Scholastic Achievement Award	Hannah McGrath

Year Level Prizes	Name
Year 8 Westpac Prize	Dakshyani Muniandy
Year 9 Champion Education Prize	Alessia D'Angelis
Year 10 City of Mitcham / Margaret Ward Prize	Nazha Mohamed Nasmi
Year 11 KW Wholesale Stationers Prize	Zuha Faisal

Contribution to SRC	Name
Contribution to SRC	Claire Collins
Contribution to SRC	Hannah McGrath
Contribution to SRC	Hayley Meyer
Contribution to SRC	Rebecca Cid



Middle School

Middle School Report

As the school year nears its end, we at Mitcham have one foot firmly planted in 2019, ensuring the teaching and learning is rigorous and engaging, while the other foot is planning and preparing for our incoming students for 2020.

During Weeks 4 and 8 of this term we welcomed both Year 7 and 8 (2020) students for two transitions days. The students were grouped in their future Care Groups enabling new students to get to know one another and their Peer Leaders. Whilst in these groups, students experienced high school lessons in several specialist teaching areas. Students were acting creatively in the Performing Arts Centre, busily chopping and baking in the kitchens, making and creating dynamic wearable costumes and building prototypes in response to a STEM problem in the Millhouse Centre. On the second transition day students had a chance to explore the Library, have their Student ID photos

taken, play Get To Know You games, learn to read a timetable and physically follow it around the school. The yard was full of energy and enthusiasm with a hearty game of castle ball being played with students from all year levels, some students enjoying a cool dip in the swimming pool and others constructing a giant Jenga and naughts and crosses.

We are all looking forward to welcoming our new members of the school community in 2020.

Summer Bowles

Assistant Principal Middle School

Science

Year 9 - The ConocoPhillips Science Experiment 2019

Thank you to the following Rotary Clubs: Mitcham, Brownhill Creek, Unley, Blackwood, Tonsley, West Torrens, Somerton Park, Mawson Lakes and Salisbury who very generously provided sponsorship to allow twelve Year 9 students to attend the ConocoPhillips Science Experience during December.

The students are looking forward to spending three days on the various campuses of either Flinders University or University of Adelaide undertaking a range of hands-on practical science-based / STEM focus activities and gaining information about the many careers and study opportunities in Science, Engineering and Technology.

Liz Rogers

Science Teacher



National BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Competition

As some of our girls were winners in the Oliphant Science Awards, they have been invited to enter their work into the National BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Competition held at the beginning of 2020, which is a great honour.

Congratulations to Chrissie Mower, Brooke Fuller, Thamara Galindo Gutierrez, Jasinta Morriss, Nicola Strever, Carla Strever and Rebecca Trezona. Well done!

Anna Cullen

Science Teacher

Science



Women in Space

As part of Space Week in South Australia a small group of Year 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to attend the Women in Space Event at Hamilton Secondary College.

The students learned about the opportunities and experiences in a career in space exploration and industry from a panel of six women leading the space industry.

Part of the day was spent exploring the issues and challenges of an International settlement established on Mars, looking at broad topics such as Law, Food, Water, Medicine, Housing, Power, Communication and Transport and brainstorming possible solutions to these problems.

Liz Rogers
Science Teacher



Exceptional Science Service Award

Congratulations Lizzie Anderson, our wonderful laboratory technician who was awarded the “Exceptional Service Award” for her all of her hard work and excellent support of the Science faculty.

Helen Marussinszky
Science Coordinator

Lego League

On Sunday 10 November two teams of Year 8 Gift Science students represented Mitcham Girls in the First Lego League Regional Challenge, held at Trinity College.

First Lego League (FLL) is a competition that caters for upper-primary and lower-secondary school students. Every year, teams of up to ten students build, program and compete with a robot, while also learning about a modern problem in Science and Engineering and developing solutions. The theme for 2019 was “City Shapers” and building a better world. FLL has three areas of judging; Project, Robot and Core Values. Both teams should be extremely proud of their efforts on the day, with PLIF Eco Solutions winning the Project Award for “Innovative Solution” and coming 3rd overall in the Robot section; the EnTYRE Deal winning the Research Project Award.

Both teams placed in the top four teams coming 2nd and 3rd on the day with an invitation for all students to compete in the National Lego League Tournament which was held in Melbourne on 24 November. The students learnt a lot about team dynamics; communication, respect, collaboration, leadership and problem-solving capabilities whilst competing in Melbourne and improved upon their robot performance when completing the various missions in the 2½ minute time limit. They also enjoyed spending time at Scienceworks looking at a range of interactive exhibitions.

Special thanks go to Indi Piggan, an ex-student, for mentoring the students involved in the robot aspect of FLL and Liat D'Ambrosio for mentoring a student from PLIF team with their prototype as part of the project component. Also, thanks to Carly Dabinet for adding embellishments to the PLIF team T-shirts for the National tournament.

Liz Rogers
Science Teacher

Science

Australian Science Olympiad Competition

A group of Year 10 and 11 students challenged themselves in this high-level demanding competition.

Special congratulations to Zuha Faisal achieving a Credit in Biology, and Nicola Lieff achieving a Distinction in Chemistry and a High Distinction in Physics.

Nicola has been invited to attend the Olympiad Summer School in Canberra. She won this opportunity as one of the country's top 24 students in Physics.

Year 11 - Biology

Once again the Year 11 Biology class has been studying the chickens and their first few days of life, looking at their height and weight gain over their first 10 days. Students across all year levels have observed the eggs hatching and watched the 16 chickens develop their personalities. Yesterday was their first foray into the big wide world of the oval.

Anna Cullen
Biology Teacher



The 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 were asked to take photos to reflect the theme "Science is Everywhere" and provide a brief explanation (200 words or less) sharing the meaning behind the photo, or why they chose to represent science through this image.

Congratulations to Georgie Wooller and Maddy Geerts who have been selected as finalists in The Cochlear Aurora Photo Contest, Year 8 to 10 section.

Their entry was titled "Standing Tall".

Well done to the following Year 8 students who also entered the competition:

Sienna Birss and Kendra Edwards
Science Behind the Dancers Needle

Airlie Goldsmith and Holly Warncken
Tides

Mia Patrick
All Eyes on You

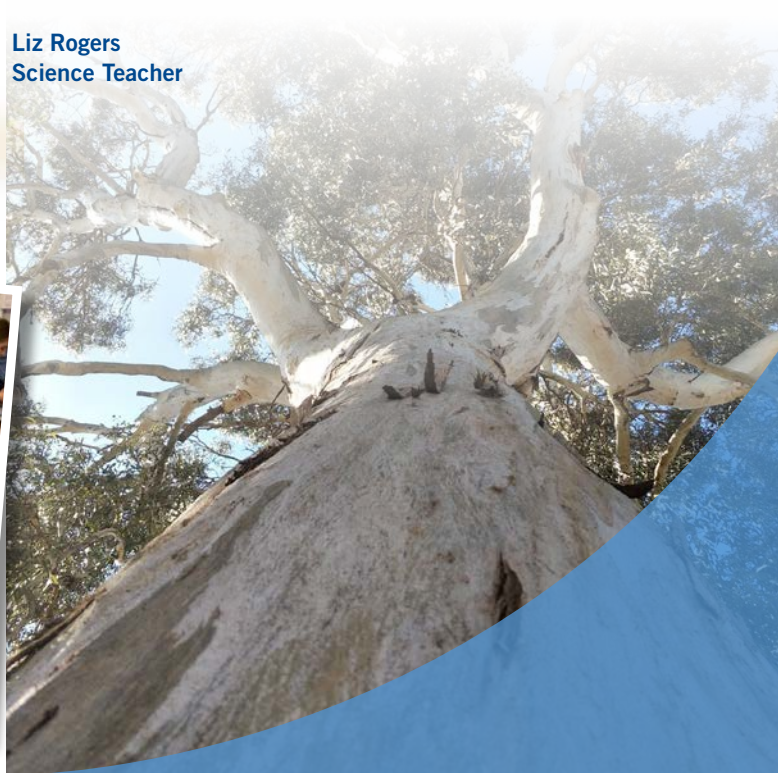
Sarah Al-Mizban
Scope Out the Horizon

Abriana Hodgkinson
Air, Stone, Bubbles

Holly Ludlow
Scientific Beauty

You can go to **Flinders STEM Women Branching Out** face book page (<https://www.facebook.com/FlindersSTEMWomen/>) to view their work.

Liz Rogers
Science Teacher



School Sport Update

2020 House Captains

Congratulations to the following students, who have been selected as House Captains for 2020. Students were voted for by their peers, with each of the nominees' leadership qualities from PE lessons and School Sport also factored in. All students are worthy leaders and will play a big role in the organisation of their Houses in next year's Swimming Carnival, Sports Day and House Sport activities. Year 7 and 8 captains will be chosen in the new year.

MITCHELL

Year 9 Captain/Vice Captain	Madison Geerts / Daksha Muniandy
Year 10 Captain/Vice Captain	Christina Mower / Grace Karavasili
Year 11 Captain/Vice Captain	Madeleine Wallace / Madeline Walpole
Year 12 Captain	Bethany Stidston / Rema Muniandy
Mentor	Nyari Grzyb

SPENCE

Year 9 Captain/Vice Captain	Airlie Goldsmith / Sriya Pillay
Year 10 Captain/Vice Captain	Maia Mulholland / Cadence Cooper
Year 11 Captain/Vice Captain	Michaela Collins / Hayley Adams
Year 12 Captain	Zarlie Lynch / Poppy Craig
Mentor	Asha Foster

FRASER

Year 9 Captain/Vice Captain	Zara Bowles / Carmella Greenwood
Year 10 Captain/Vice Captain	Taylah Brennan-Jones / Keyanah Kilpatrick
Year 11 Captain/Vice Captain	Victoria Collins / Ane Van Der Merwe
Year 12 Captain	Tamrah Steer / Rosanna Barani
Mentor	Amy Redjeji

Term 3/4 Southern Zone Sport

The Southern Zone Sport Program has concluded for 2019. For the Term 3/4 season, Mitcham fielded teams in the Year 8/9 Volleyball, Open Volleyball and Year 8/9 Badminton competitions. Congratulations to all teams for their participation in this competition.

Finals were held in Week 6 of Term 4 with the following results:

Year 8/9 Volleyball - 5th place

Open Volleyball - 5th place

Year 8/9 Badminton - secured a spot in the Grand Final against Seaview.

Year 8/9 Badminton hadn't lost all season and continued their good form in the Grand Final. At the end of all sets, rubbers were tied which meant a count back on points was needed. Seaview came away the winning team in the end. Congratulations to our Year 8/9 Badminton team for their success this year.

Thank you to all players who contributed to After School Sport this year as well as all coaches and officials who helped the program run throughout the year.

2019 School Sport Summary

This year has once again been a very busy year for School Sports Program at Mitcham. We were able to maintain our levels of participation in the Southern Zone Sport program throughout the year participating in several sports including Netball, Volleyball, Badminton and Soccer.

MGHS has continued to be involved with School Sport SA Knockout competitions. We fielded teams in KO Football, Netball, Badminton, Soccer, Indoor Soccer, Outdoor 5-a-side Soccer, Volleyball and Touch Football. We have had a range of success throughout the year in these competitions with a number of teams qualifying for the state finals. All teams did the school proud, representing MGHS at an elite level of school sport. It has been great to see so many girls involved in sporting activities and seeing the numbers increase during the year is fantastic.

This year the House Captains' "Sport Weeks" continued each term; House Captains organised a range of sports and activities run during lunch time. These weeks proved highly successful and resulted in a further increase in the activity levels of students at Mitcham.

Overall, 2019 has been a very successful one with interest growing in different sports as well as our established teams developing even further. Sport at Mitcham in 2020 will continue to thrive with opportunities growing for students to participate in a wide range of sporting competitions, carnivals and clinics with professional coaches/athletes.

Stephanie Henson
PE Coordinator

Lizzie Anderson
Sports Assistant

Sport

Premier's Be Active Challenge

This year we had 17 students complete the Premier's Be Active Challenge. These students committed to achieving 1 hour of physical activity for 5 days each week over 5 weeks. Recipients will receive an award for this challenge and also collected House points for the Collyer Cup.

Congratulations to:

Year 8	Caitlin Dabinet	Gold for Life
	Mia Patrick	Hall of Fame
	Akshara Sathees	Bronze
	Holly Warncken	Silver for Life
Year 9	Alessia D'Angelis	Bronze
	Amber McKellar-Stewart	Bronze
	Christina Mower	Gold for Life
Year 10	Michaela Collins	Silver for Life
	Ane Van Der Merwe	Gold
	Madeline Walpole	Champion
	Rowan Wilson	Silver

Year 11	Rosanna Barani	Gold
	Emma Eglington	Gold
	Annalise Stidston	Bronze
	Bethany Stidston	Bronze

Year 12	Claire Collins	Gold for Life
	Hayley Meyer	Champion for Life

Coaching Sessions

Through our affiliation with Sporting Schools SA, a number of AFL and Badminton coaching sessions were organised for the final weeks of Term 4. These sessions were run by professional coaches of their respective sport. All students were invited to participate in these sessions, and it provided a fantastic opportunity for them to work with professional coaches in developing their skills.

Stephanie Henson
PE Coordinator

Lizzie Anderson
Sports Assistant



National History Challenge

This year seven Year 9 students from Mitcham Girls High School entered the National History Challenge. The topic was “People and Power” and students chose a variety of topics and constructed a 2,000-word essay using primary and secondary sources. They were very successful with all students as state finalists in the Special Category sections which is marked from entrants across Years 8 to 12.

Grace Karavasili won the Year 9 section of the competition for her outstanding essay on Catherine Helen Spence and was a finalist in the Women’s History category. Pia Ehlers won the History of Sport category for her excellent essay: Australian Sporting Culture from 1850 to 1920. Both received a \$200 prize. Leela Cotton Kenny and Pia Ehlers were also the two state finalists in the Year 9 Category of the competition. Leela’s essay “Women, Fashion and Power in Victorian Times” was also a finalist in the Women’s History section.

Other state finalists were Elizabeth Lawrence in Democracy Matters for her essay on Vida Goldstein while Janay Will and Madeleine Tattersall were state finalists in the People Power section. Madeleine’s essay was on “Miners’ Power and the Eureka Stockade”, while Janay’s was entitled “Power in the Life of Ned Kelly.” Finally, Hafsa Faisal was a finalist in the Asia and Australia special category with her essay “The Ghan Cameleers: Heroes of the Australian Outback?”

The National History Challenge is offered to all students from primary school to the end of high school. If you are interested in competing next year check out the National History Challenge website or see Ms Clarke for more details.

Sharyn Clarke
History Teacher



Performing Arts

Year 9 Children's Theatre 2019

The Year 9 Drama class has been working hard to create a series of student developed and devised performances for a primary school audience. Students studied the genre of children's theatre, and with this understanding worked in three small groups to produce either a live piece of theatre or film to be presented on the performance day to a live audience.

We invited two classes of Year 5 students from Mitcham Primary, as well as one of our Year 8 classes, as audience for their final performances for the year. The performances were well received with laughter and applause resonating throughout each showcase.

The session was finished off with a Drama Workshop devised by Emily Brandle which had the young attendees on their feet participating and engaging in collaborative and creative activities.

The students' collaborative ensemble work and additional commitment to polishing their final pieces of work revealed a level of resilience and creative endeavour.

Congratulations to all involved!

Kate Ralph
Drama Teacher



Stage 1: Drama Production *Sleepless Nights*, by Jasmine Whitworth

This year's Stage 1 Drama production *Sleepless Nights* was a playful, Burtonesque inspired story, which was skilfully crafted for younger audiences. The play's plotline deals with the challenges of overcoming one's fears, understanding who you are and standing up for yourself. Part comedy, part clowning and part Nightmare Before Christmas, this play was such a joy to be a part of and a wonderful play to end the year.

Set in the 1960s, the audience was invited to follow Naomi (played by Kayla Nelson), our protagonist who doesn't like to fall asleep, drift off into her dream realm and into her very frightening and futuristic nightmares. After Naomi drifts off to sleep, the audience journey with her into dark and foreboding forests, magical scenery and cosy living rooms to discover and heal her insecurities.

The creative rigour exemplified by the Year 10 and Year 11 students involved within this performance process was hugely impressive. Not only was the story envisioned and written by our very talented Stage 1 playwright, Jasmine Whitworth, it was also supported by the immensely talented actors and designers who helped bring this show to life on stage.

The production quality that was required to create such a vast and imaginary world was not to be underestimated. It was only through the highly creative solutions that this dedicated ensemble conceptualised and enacted, which allowed our audiences the permission to fall into the magic of this landscape.

I would like to commend the dedication, and energy of the whole ensemble. It is through their commitment that allowed this performance to be such a success and I am proud beyond words.

Congratulations to one and all!

Kate Ralph
Drama Teacher



Technologies

SACE Stage 1 Photography

Historic Ketch *Falie*

In Semester 1, the SACE Stage 1 Photography class was tasked with creating either some postcards or a tourist brochure. I decided to do a brochure on the Historic Ketch *Falie*. The *Falie* is a ship located in Port Adelaide and is very important to its heritage. Open days are run on board by a group of volunteers, as well as all maintenance.

Currently, the *Falie* is in danger of being placed in dry dock by the state government where it would deteriorate very quickly. I wanted to create a brochure that would help raise awareness of its importance. I attended the open days, went onboard and took some pictures. This resulted in me joining the team of volunteers.

After completing my brochure, I offered it to the volunteers and we decided to use it for the 100 Year Celebration. On Celebration Day over 500 people came on board and received a copy of the brochure. I also created signs to place around the ship which explained the different parts of the ship.

My brochure is continuing to be used at their open days and I have moved onto other projects like making signage, creating videos, designing merchandise and photographing events.

Madeleine Wallace
Year 10



Senior School

Year 12 Celebration Assembly

Monday 21 October marked the first of the formal celebrations relating to our senior class concluding their five years of schooling at Mitcham Girls High School. The assembly's focus was on the students and their learning journeys as they developed into young women ready to move beyond the world of schooling.

The Celebration Assembly speech presented by Abbie Aylett and Claire Collins, shared the year level's reflections upon their time at school, both from an academic lens and a wellbeing and social focus.

It was wonderful to see the students reach this milestone marker, ready to move to their final preparation for examinations and the conclusions of all summative assessment work.

Colleen Tomlian
Year 12 Leader

Whole School

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is an important time for many people in our community and students at Mitcham Girls High School embraced the opportunity to honour the fallen during the Remembrance Day Assembly.

The Mitcham RSL also invited students from our school to participate in the official service held at the Memorial Gardens. Fourteen students took part in the wreath laying and placed a posy of native flowers on the steps of the monument while Year 10 student, Isabella Saba, had the honour of reading the poem – *In Flanders Fields*. Despite the blustery conditions, it was a moving ceremony attended by a large number of dignitaries, community members and local school children.

Dana Thomas
SRC Coordinator



International Students

As we come to the end of another busy year, we must say goodbye to some of our delightful International students.

Three students will be returning home to Japan in the coming weeks and we recently took the opportunity to thank them for choosing to study at Mitcham Girls and wish them well in the future. It is often quite difficult for students to be away from family and friends but they have made many new friends in Australia and have lots of wonderful experiences to share when they return. I asked them what they will miss the most about Australia and there was a clear and unanimous response – Tim Tams!

Dana Thomas
International/Exchange Student Coordinator

