

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 | May 2018 | Term 2



MITCHAM GIRLS
HIGH SCHOOL

DIARY DATES

May

Thursday 31

Year 11 & 12 Meningococcal
Immunisations

June

Friday 8

Student Free Day

Tuesday 12

Dance Performance 6:00pm & 7:00pm

Wednesday 13

Principal's Tour 9:15am

Monday 18

Governing Council 7:00pm

Monday 18 – Friday 22

Year 10 & 11 Exam Week

Friday 22

Semester 1 ends

Monday 25

Semester 2 begins

Wednesday 27

Melinda Tankard Reist Workshops:
Time to Talk!

- Year 8 - 9:00am
- Year 9 - 11:00am
- Senior School / Whole School Parent Session - 1:30pm

July

Tuesday 3

Gift Dance Auditions
(Year 8 intake 2019) 11:15am

Wednesday 4

Year 12 Drama Production 6:00pm

Friday 6

Year 11 Reflection Day
End Term 2, reports
distributed at 3:10pm

Monday 23

Term 3 commences

Monday 23 - Friday 27

Year 12 Exams

From The Principal

Parent/Teacher Conferences

A vast majority of parents took advantage of the Parent/Teacher Conferences, held over two evenings, to meet teachers and have conversations about their daughter's progress. From the school's perspective, this proved to be a very effective and useful exercise. However, we always look to improve our processes from year to year. If you would like to provide some feedback on Parent/Teacher Conferences, please feel free to email the school with your constructive feedback.

STEM Works

On Wednesday 16 May, students were given access to the Library and were excited by what they saw: new carpet, modern bookshelves, study booths complete with large TV screens and a brand-new recording/media room. New soft furniture has been ordered to complete this facility.

Work on the top floor, our STEM Centre, is progressing well and we are hoping to be able to use the space before the end of this term. Work on the Year 11 Study will commence towards the end of Term 2 and work on the quadrangle is also planned for the beginning of Term 3.

Melinda Tankard Reist: Time to Talk!

As educators of young women, we have always been conscious of and spoken against the sexualisation of women by the media. These themes are embedded in our curriculum and in the past, we have invited Melinda to explore these issues more deeply through her powerful, memorable and sometimes confronting presentations. In fact, during a recent conversation with some Year 11 and 12 students, they said it was Melinda who helped them navigate a highly sexualised world.

Recently, in Australia, there has been a concentrated effort by governments and other organisations to "stop violence" against women. This debate is welcome and our own school is a "White Ribbon" school. However, I strongly believe that we need to start the even more difficult conversations with our girls: Does pornography legitimise violence against women? How do we empower young women to say: "No, I don't do that"? We acknowledge that we are not experts at dealing with these delicate, sensitive and emotional situations. However, we have two choices: ignore this topic altogether and leave it up to parents to deal with or start these conversations and together with parents equip our students with skills to navigate the modern world.

I believe it would be irresponsible of us to ignore what is happening in our modern world. Once again, we have invited Melinda to run workshops with all our students on Wednesday 27 June. She will address the following topics:

- Too much too young: the sexualisation of children and what we can do about it. How can we address this toxic culture and raise happy, healthy and resilient kids?
- Healthy relationships.
- Positive bodies: You're OK the way you are.
- The online life of girls (and boys).
- Pornography and violence.

Melinda will adjust her presentation according to the age of the students. The Year 8 students will have their presentation at 9:00am; Year 9 students at 11:00am and the Senior School at 1:30pm. Parents are more than welcome to attend the afternoon session.

More detailed information will be forwarded to parents in due course and parents may give permission to have their daughter opt out of the presentation.

Antoinette Jones
Principal

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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SCHOOL

Middle School News

Middle School Report

Term 1 has begun with an enthusiastic rush to take the curriculum beyond the classroom learning experience. Many of the Middle School programs are now complementing in-class learning with field trips, excursions, workshops and practicums enabling both Year 8 and 9 students to experience their theoretical learning in real world contexts.

Programs thus far have included field trips to Hallett Cove and the Urrbrae Wetlands, STEM and Science workshops, dance performances, and the Musée D'Orsay Exhibition at the Art Gallery of South Australia. These experiences provide students with opportunities to consolidate learning, apply knowledge and demonstrate their theory-based learning in the field. They are crucial elements in the learning process and we encourage all students to participate.

NAPLAN for 2018 is now complete, with 96% of students undertaking all four elements of the testing process. We thank the Year 9 students for their commitment and engagement in each of the tests.

In 2019, the school will transition to the online version of NAPLAN. Information will be sent in the coming week to all 2018 Year 8 students families regarding the preparation activities that will occur later this year as a part of the school readiness review for NAPLAN 2019.

Term 3 will bring the next set of assessment processes with the Year 8, 9 and 10 PAT state-based literacy and numeracy assessment tasks. More details will be provided later this term.

In the previous newsletter, Ms Ozolins (currently on leave) encouraged any student who had not signed up for the Children's University Program to do so. If you would like to participate in this year's program but have not yet collected information or a form, please see Ms Tomlian.

A reminder to all students and families that the change in weather has now begun and that consequently students may need additional layers of clothing or change of uniform items due to the colder weather. When wearing additional non-uniform items, such as extra tops (no hoodies) or sock layers, these need to be worn under the uniform. Rain jackets/coats are the exception coming to and from school. Please also note that there are three types of approved school shoes for students to wear. Information and images may be found in your daughter's diary. Please ensure that those provided to your daughter are one of the listed shoes.

Colleen Tomlian
Acting Assistant Principal Middle School

Arts

Year 8 Drama Class

The Year 8 Drama students for Semester 1 will be performing *Hidden Messages*, by Damon Lockwood, on Wednesday 6 June (Week 6) during a lunch time matinee.

Hidden Messages tells the story of a young girl, Carrie, who receives letters from a secret admirer that are hidden throughout some of Shakespeare's most famous plays. Today is the day that her secret admirer is going to reveal themselves, by leaving one last message in one of the library's many Shakespeare plays; however, there is one small problem: the latest English assignment has many students in her class trying to borrow them out!

Through many ridiculous scenarios, interactions and characters, *Hidden Messages* takes its audience on an emotional rollercoaster! Will Carrie be able to hold off the hordes of eager students long enough to find her admirer, or will time run out?

Come and find out! We hope to see you there.

Kate Ralph
Drama Teacher



Arts

Stage 2 Drama

The Stage 2 Drama class put on their creative thinking caps this semester in order to create Tim Burton inspired performance pieces. As part of their Stage 2 Drama course students created the mysterious but beautiful world of a “Burtonesque” film, filled with gorgeously quirky characters, and brought this world to life on stage.

This is a fantastic example of the creative opportunities provided in the Stage 2 Drama course and these beautiful, intelligent and sensitive performances are a product of the dedication of our girls.

Stage 1 Drama Presentations

Our two SACE Stage 1 Drama classes, made up of Year 10s and 11s, were tasked with a significant challenge: as a student-led ensemble, can you conceive, design and perform a class production without a teacher's creative or directorial input? The answer is *Yes, We Can!* In Week 2 this term both Stage 1 Drama classes performed their work to a select student audience of their own peers.

Their task was to create a piece of Contemporary Australian Theatre that told individual stories through a uniquely Australian lens. From stories of heartache and loss, through to cheese connoisseurs, the students took this challenge in their stride to create two distinct contemporary Australian theatre pieces: *Stolen*, directed by Isabelle Warnock and Isabella Moore and *Trapped Behind the Bars of Life*, directed by Emily Ritson and Georgia Tucker.

From initial directorial intent through to creative conception and final implementation, these students have really stepped up the rigor and expectations of what a creative process looks like. Well done to all students involved!

Stage 2 Drama Excursions

As a part of the Adelaide Festival of the Arts, Semester 1 provided the Stage 2 Drama class an opportunity to witness two outstanding State Theatre Performances: Andrew Bovell's *After Dinner* and *In the Club* by Patricia Corneliuss, at the Festival Centre and the Odeon Theatre respectively.

In the Club was a particularly insightful and topical production that brought to the surface the difficult realities surrounding gender, power and control that are so prevalent throughout our society. It sparked many meaningful conversations about gender equality and the importance of raising these issues to create open and informed dialogue within our current social and political climate.

Kate Ralph
Drama Teacher



Theatre Sports Competition

Late last term, our current Year 8 Drama class competed in the inaugural Theatre Sports Competition at Brighton Secondary School. The competition has been developed to create a broader interschool Drama community for middle school students and is an opportunity for students from each school to show off their improvisation skills and quick wit.

The competition was a great success with teams from Mitcham Girls High School, Prince Alfred College and Brighton Secondary School each providing their own unique flair and edge to the competition. Our girls did an outstanding job, taking 2nd place!

The friendliness, humility and supportiveness of all competitors towards each other, staff and judges was overwhelming and an absolute credit to the students. We look forward to the next event, late in Semester 2, at Prince Alfred College.

Well done to all students involved!

Taylor Rubino
Acting English/Debating Coordinator

Science

Mitcham Girls Inaugural Coding and Robotics Workshop

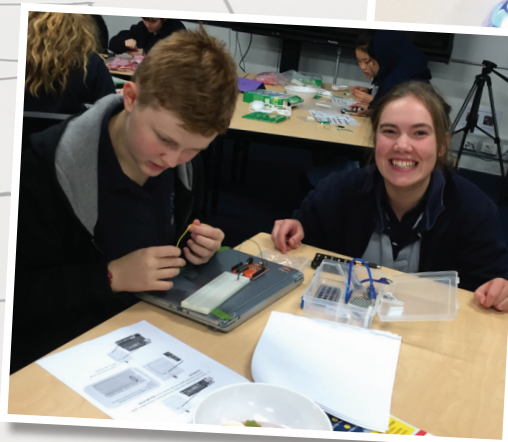
In Week 3, students from Years 8, 9 and 11 took part in the Mitcham Girls Inaugural Coding and Robotics Workshop at lunch time. In this workshop the students were given the freedom to explore and develop their knowledge of robotics and coding while also utilising their creativity to problem solve. The workshop was open to all levels of coding, robotics and STEM experience.

The girls had a variety of activities to take part in and explore, from working with app-enabled robotic balls called Spheros across an obstacle course, building and programming their own battery powered crabs, learning to program their own games and apps, to programming Arduino micro-processors and building their own circuits and scripts of code.

The girls showed great enthusiasm and creativity with each project undertaken; a great foundation for future experiences in STEM projects and careers.

Well done, girls!

Emily Halls
Science Teacher



Year 12 Biotechnology Excursion

Enzymes keep organisms alive by speeding up their chemical reactions and are also very useful to industry.

The Year 12 Biology class discovered, in a hands-on laboratory session, the value of using enzymes for biotechnology. Red wine can go off if certain enzymes are present in a mould which can infect and affect the flavour of the wine. It was an opportunity for the girls to put into practice the theory they had been learning at school, and was a fantastic session held in the labs at Flinders University.

Anna Cullen
Biology Teacher



English

The Debating SA Schools Competition Begins!

Congratulations to the eight Mitcham Girls teams that have just participated in Round 1 of the Debating SA Schools Competition for 2018. We have many new debaters this year and highly commend their commitment to trying something new!

The students began the season debating a range of topical issues, as well as some that were more unusual! The Year 8s worked hard on their arguments for their topic: *'How to Vote cards should/shouldn't be banned'*. The Year 9s drew on their knowledge of the Harry Potter series to debate that *'Hogwarts is/is not the ideal school'*. The Year 10s were also challenged in Round 1, being asked to watch the film *The Minority Report* and debate on the grounds of human rights and freedom.

All teams have performed well so far and have worked hard to develop teamwork, critical thinking, and public speaking skills. We would like to acknowledge, in particular, the success of the Year 8 'Green' team on their first win! A thank you is also extended to our coaches: Dana Thomas, Taylor Rubino, Jade Cornish and Meg Roddy (old-scholar) for their time and guidance.

We look forward to the remaining debates and wish all teams the best in the upcoming rounds!

Taylor Rubino
Acting English/Debating Coordinator



Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition

On Saturday 12 May, five Mitcham students participated in the "Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition". Zannatuj Jihan, Aastha Kumar and Christina Mower took part as Juniors, while Alina Jansons and Nameera Mansuri competed in the Seniors category.

All competitors had to deliver a prepared speech of six (Juniors) or eight (Seniors) minutes and a "short notice" speech of three minutes. The challenge of the "short notice" speech was that competitors were given a choice out of three topics with a preparation time of only 15 minutes. Quick thinking and planning were definitely required.

"Voice of Youth" is a very well-known public speaking competition of a high standard and it attracts many participants. Our students did themselves and the school proud, presenting thoughtful, well-informed and engaging speeches on topics ranging from the impacts of "fast fashion" and water wastage to issues of gender equity, bullying and volunteer tourism. As the following comments show, our girls found it a rewarding experience:

"It was an eye opener, more competitive and challenging than I expected, but overall also more enjoyable and if I got the chance I would take part again." Aastha

"It was interesting hearing other people's thinking and getting to know them. It made us more confident and the feedback from the judges was helpful." Zannatuj

"It was fun and a new experience. It gave me confidence to do more public speaking." Nameera

"The competition gave me the opportunity to research a topic I was interested in and present it in my own way to an unfamiliar group." Alina

Caroline Bamford
English Teacher



Stage 2 Essential English Excursion

As part of the Stage 2 Essential English curriculum, the class is currently undertaking an assignment which requires them to prepare a restaurant review. By interacting with and reflecting on a consumer experience, students are able to make connections between the real world and the English classroom. The girls enjoyed the opportunity to visit San Giorgio's Ristorante in the city and apply what they had been learning about the features of a restaurant review and its purpose in the community.

Dana Thomas
English Teacher

Design and Technologies

Scrap Box Challenge

One of the first assessment tasks of the semester was to create a small wooden item from scrap material and offcuts from previous years' projects. The brief was to create something unique in a 4-week period that would have a use within their homes. Below are some of the projects.

Comace Industry Talk

The students have also been working with Comace Joinery to create more effective storage solutions for the school's First Aid room. In groups, students have designed new cabinetry for the First Aid room in consultation with both Sandra at Reception and Felice, the General Manager from Comace. Felice visited the school and spoke to the Year 9 Design and Technologies class about the design and construction process. This project will conclude with an Industry Visit to the Comace Factory at the end of the semester.

Simon Brooks
STEM Coordinator



Year 9 Food Blogging

So far this term our Year 9 Food and Fibre classes have been working on creating their own food blogs, with a focus on current food trends around Adelaide. In Week 3, a professional food blogger from "On the Chopping Block" came in to speak to the students about what it takes to follow a career in food blogging. He provided the students with tips to assist them in writing their own food blogs, such as food photography pointers and how to capture an audience through your writing.

Lee Shaw
Home Ec Teacher

Sports Day

Friday 6 April, which turned out to be a warm Autumn day, was Mitcham Girls High School's Sports Day.

The day started with both individual novelty events and team sports. Students lined up to take part in the popular novelty events including the footy kick, softball throw, netball goal shooting and cricket throw. The Year 8s and 9s also took to the field to play soccer and frisbee while the Year 10s, 11s and 12s competed in netball and volleyball. This was followed by lunch time theatre sports.

The afternoon saw things heat up (both the weather and on the school oval!) as each House competed for points in the team novelty events – tug of war, geeta boards, sack race, tunnel ball, 3-legged race and balloon relays.

The most competitive events of the day were the running races – continuous relay, sprint relays and Fastest Girl at Mitcham - as competitors from each House strived to get every point they could before the day drew to a close. It was Fraser who would triumph, winning all three trophies – Junior Cup, Senior Cup and the Overall Championship.

A big thank you to staff who assisted in the running of events on the day, to the students for getting involved in the events and making it fun while competitive, to House Captains for organising their Houses and year levels, and to family members who attended to support their daughters throughout the day.

Dimi Sianis
Sports Assistant

Congratulations to the Fastest Girl at Mitcham winners:

- Year 8 – Janay Will
- Year 9 – Maddy Wallace
- Year 10/11 – Pia Ehlers
- Year 12 – Amber Mysizczew

Overall winner - Amber Mysizczew



	Junior Cup	Senior Cup	Overall Championship
1st	Fraser 753 points	Fraser 679 points	Fraser 1432 points
2nd	Mitchell 546 points	Mitchell 627 points	Mitchell 1173 points
3rd	Spence 445 points	Spence 605 points	Spence 1050 points

Sports

Knockout Sport

During Terms 2 and 3, our school will be competing in various state-wide Knockout Sport competitions.

Knockout Sport is for teams and students who compete at a high level in their sport of choice. In Terms 2 and 3, the following teams will be competing in Knockout Sport:

Year 8/9 Netball

Open Netball

Year 8/9 Soccer

Open Soccer

Open Indoor Soccer

Open Volleyball

Open Basketball

We will keep you updated on the progress of our teams.

After School Zone Sport

The Southern Zone Term 2/3 Zone Sport competition commenced in Week 4 and will run until Week 4 of Term 3. Games are played on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30pm-4:30pm, against schools within the Southern Zone on a Home and Away basis. This includes the likes of Glenunga, Unley, Brighton, Seaview and Blackwood. In the Term 2/3 season, we will have teams in the following competitions:

Year 8/9 Netball

Open Netball

Open Soccer (including Year 8/9 students)

Open Badminton (including Year 8/9 students)

Dimi Sianis

Sports Assistant

Whole School

Harmony Day

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity and is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

At Mitcham Girls this year we celebrated our cultural diversity by making friendship bracelets, listening to music from other cultures and encouraging students to share their customs and practices. It was a vibrant and festive atmosphere as students from different year levels joined together.

Summer Bowles

Student Wellbeing Leader



Kyoto Study Tour

Once again, we will be hosting 15 students from Kyoto, Japan, for a period of two weeks in Term 3 from 29 July to 12 August.

To welcome these students into our school, we are looking for 15 families to host one student each. Please note, it is a requirement from the Kyoto Board of Education that each student has her own bedroom.

Hosting an international student is a wonderful way of getting to know, understand and appreciate each other's cultures, customs and traditions and forging lifelong friendships with your student and her family.

Families are required to have homestay accreditation. This involves a home visit by one of our staff and all family members residing in the house (18 years and over) having a DCSI Clearance. Each family will receive \$560.00 for hosting their student.

If you would like to engage in this experience please contact Jenni on 8272 8233 or email jennifer.stewart490@schools.sa.edu.au, register your interest and we will commence the accreditation process as soon as possible.

Summer Bowles

**Coordinator International/
Exchange Program**

Whole School

School Dress Code

The School Dress Code is clearly stated in the school diary and on the school's website, however, we continue to speak to students about wearing appropriate clothing to school.

The uniform allows us to identify our students easily which in turn helps us identify people who should not be on school grounds. In particular, we must be able to see the School Dress Code as the outer most layer of clothing and not be able to see any other non-uniform items underneath. We also have restrictions on jewellery, makeup, shoes and dress length for practical reasons. The Governing Council endorses the School Dress Code and we ask parents to support us in adherence to the Dress Code.

There are many options for students and it is designed to accommodate all seasons.

Students who do not adhere to the School Dress Code will have the option of going home to change or to borrow an item of clothing from Student Services. Students will not be sent home without parental consent. Repeat incidents of non-compliance will be dealt with through the Behaviour Management process.

Should your daughter wish to purchase an item of uniform, the school Uniform Shop is open every Thursday from 8:00am to 1:30pm during school terms only.

If you wish to purchase items of uniform and pay by instalments please ring Antoinette Jones, the Principal, and she will be happy to assist you in every way possible.

Below is an extract from the school diary regarding School Dress Code.

All students are expected to adhere to the School Dress Code. The Governing Council, Principal and staff affirm this decision and seek parent and student support for the Dress Code. The Dress Code consists of the following items:

- Mitcham check cotton dress (to be no shorter than one palm width in length above the crease in the back of the knee)
- Pleated MacKenzie Tartan skirt (to be no shorter than one palm width in length above the crease in the back of the knee)
- Navy trousers (not track pants)
- Mitcham navy dress shorts (to be no shorter than one palm width in length above the crease in the back of the knee)
- White long or short sleeve shirt with MGHS logo
- White or navy polo shirt with MGHS logo
- Mitcham navy woollen jumper with MGHS logo
- Mitcham navy fleece jacket with MGHS logo
- Mitcham rugby top
- Navy jacket (not denim)
- Plain white, black or navy socks (socks to be below the knee and have no logos or text)
- Navy or black pantihose/tights (no socks)
- Black fully enclosed school shoes as shown below (shoes should be done up at all times)
- Plain navy or white headband or ribbon (optional)
- Plain navy tie (optional) (worn neatly with white shirt, top button done up)
- Plain navy or white head or neck scarf (optional)
- Hat (optional, available at Uniform Shop)
- School Blazer (for official functions only)
- Year 12 Jumper (for Year 12 students only)
- Year 12 "Seniors" Polo Shirt (for Year 12 students only)

PE and Sport Dress Code

- Mitcham rugby top
- Mitcham navy sports shirt with MGHS logo
- Navy sport shorts
- Netball skirt, navy
- Track pants, navy
- Track shoes or sneakers
- Hats are recommended

Makeup and Jewellery

- Jewellery, make-up, nail polish, coloured hair and coloured artificial not part of the School Dress Code.

Tony Sims
Deputy Principal



Whole School

ANZAC Day

Mitcham Girls High School was formally represented at two local ANZAC Day Dawn Services. Cecilia Ronson and Deeti Arora together with a member of staff attended the Unley RSL Sub Branch service. Cecilia was invited to conduct the Acknowledgment of Country and both girls laid a wreath in honour of those who have served.

Alina Jansons and Caitlin McNamara, along with our Principal, attended and participated in the Mitcham RSL service. Many other students attended services across South Australia representing the organisations they belong to, for example Scouts and Sea Scouts. Let's not forget.

Summer Bowles
SRC Coordinator



Bullying No Way Day

On 16 March 2018, students were encouraged to sign a form "Say No to Bullying at Mitcham Girls High School". SRC Wellbeing members also distributed posters, "Help" cards and wristbands to promote the day. We suggested students think about the responsibility of being a bystander.

Jill Olifent
Student Wellbeing Leader

Open Day/Night

The sun was shining, and the weather was kind for this year's Open Day/Night. We had streams of visitors through our gates to experience a glimpse of life at Mitcham Girls. Our guests were impressed with our student passion and pride in their school. They were overwhelmed with the curriculum offerings, projects, extra curricula opportunities and our physical resources.

Thank you to students and staff for showing the public our wonderful school.

Summer Bowles
Open Day/Night Coordinator

PLP Mock Interviews

Year 10 PLP Mock Interviews will be held on Friday 15 June at Mitcham Girls High School.

As a part of the Personal Learning Plan, students are required to apply for a fictional retail or hospitality-based casual job. Firstly, they produce and submit a cover letter to the employer together with a resumé. They then participate in a mock interview and receive feedback from the interviewers regarding their appearance, choice of clothing, communication, body language, how they respond to and ask questions. Interviewers will also give feedback on their cover letter and resumé and advice for where they can improve.

To make this event as authentic as possible I invite parents to volunteer their time to act as our employers. You do not need any experience in this field and an induction is carried out before interviews commence. Interviewers can nominate at which times of the day they are available to assist.

Please contact Jill Olifent on 8272 8233 or email jill.olifent705@schools.sa.edu.au if you are available to donate some time.

Jill Olifent
PLP Coordinator

Notices

Entertainment Book

Order your NEW 2018 | 2019 Entertainment Book or Entertainment Digital Membership now. You'll receive hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do and help our fundraising at the same time.

<http://www.entbook.com.au/161m056>

