

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | February 2018 | Term 1



**MITCHAM GIRLS  
HIGH SCHOOL**

## DIARY DATES

### February

**Monday 26**

Governing Council AGM 7:00pm

### March

**Monday 5**

IWD & Leadership Induction Assembly  
12:00pm

**Tuesday 20**

Year 8 Immunisations

**Wednesday 21**

Harmony Day

**Thursday 22**

Principal's Tour 9:15am

**Monday 26**

Governing Council 7:00pm

### April

**Friday 6**

Sports Day

**Tuesday 10**

Dance Performances  
6:00pm & 7:30pm

**Friday 13**

Term 1 ends (reports distributed  
@3:10pm)

## From The Principal

Welcome to the 2018 school year. In particular, the school community extends a very warm welcome to all parents of Year 8 students and all other parents who are new to the school. In partnership with all of you, we aim to provide the best education possible to every student at Mitcham Girls High School.

The Class of 2017 made us very proud. The percentage of A grades increased by 4% and the percentage of B grades increased by 3%. At the beginning of last year, we set students the challenge of achieving more As and they certainly delivered. In summary, 20% of all grades were As, 44% of all grades were Bs, 33% of all grades were Cs and 3% of all grades were Ds.

You may also be interested to know that the highest ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) achieved was 99.03 from a possible 99.5.

We congratulate the Class of 2017 and wish them all the best for the future.

### Physical Resources

I am happy to inform you that work on the new STEM Centre has commenced. Demolition on the third floor and the Library is almost finished and we are hoping to have this project completed early Term 2. Once the STEM Centre and the Library are complete, work on the quadrangle will begin, providing green and aesthetically beautiful

spaces and seating arrangements for our students. For this term, the Library and the Visual Arts rooms have been rehoused into smaller spaces, but we are very excited that soon our students will have more comfortable spaces to work in.

We have also commenced discussions on:

- building extra classrooms on Kyre Avenue;
- refurbishing one of the Home Economics rooms; and
- installing air conditioning in the Gym.

This work will be paid for with the \$5 million allocated to our school by the State Government last year.

### Staffing 2018

The following staff members have taken leave: Gemma Brunckhorst, Anne Carpenter, Ann Gatis, Emma Langhans, Laura Harvey, Maria Moody and Bri Parsons.

The following members of staff have been appointed: Alan Cook (Music), Jade Cornish (PLP and English), Chloe Fox (French), Scott Gladstone (Health & PE), Emily Halls (Science), Stephanie Henson (Health & PE), Taylor Rubino (English), Lee Shaw (Home Ec) and Mari Yu (Curriculum Support).

**Antoinette Jones  
Principal**



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**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

CRICOS Provider number: 00018A



**CIS** WE ARE AN  
ACCREDITED  
SCHOOL



# Middle School News

## Year 8 Camp

The start of the 2018 school year has been full of excitement and new experiences for our Year 8 students and the Week 3 camps provided an opportunity to get acquainted with peers, teachers and the values of the school in a more personal and pleasant way. The idyllic beachside location in Wallaroo, clear blue skies and mild summer temperatures provided near-perfect conditions for both camps across the week.

As soon as students arrived at the campsite, they were organised into activity groups by the Active Ed staff. New friendships were made in these groups as students laughed and had fun together while problem-solving and trying new things. Swimming, kayaking and raft-building were very popular given the well protected and shallow waters of the Wallaroo beach. Having the opportunity to make their very own pizzas in a wood-fired oven was also an enjoyable and tasty experience. The fun continued into the evening as the Peer Leaders provided an entertaining program of games, challenges and laughter. This year's newspaper fashion shows in both camps produced some very interesting and creative designs inspired by famous celebrities and movie themes. The Peer Leaders also organised a range of outdoor games in the park which the Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed.

Coming to camp is a significant challenge for many of the Year 8 students and they should all be commended for pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones, supporting their peers and gaining the confidence and resilience to be successful young women who are ready for the complexities of our world.

My sincere gratitude goes to the Year 11 Peer Leaders who gave up their time and own commitments to ensure the 2018 Year 8s were welcomed and prepared for high school effectively; their congenial and obliging approach was greatly appreciated:

Rebecca Cid  
Jean Davis  
Abbie Aylett  
Paige Bowers  
Emma Fraser  
Ananya Vohra  
Skylah Armfield  
Katherine Hatchard

Jade Veitch  
Cristina Cabarcas  
Hannah McGrath  
Millie Thompson  
Claire Collins  
Ashlee Styles  
Mikayla Statham  
An Pham

And most importantly, thank you to the staff in attendance whose time and commitment ensured that extra-curricular activities such as this can occur: Taylor Rubino, Zinta Ozolins, Paul Wise, Catherine Chambers, Lee Shaw, Summer Bowles, Vanessa Cole, Jill Olifent and Mark Whitehorn.

**Dana Thomas**  
Year 8 Leader





# Middle School News

## Middle School Report

The 2018 school year has started smoothly, but at the same time with great energy for students in Years 8 and 9.

The school year began with a focus on our values: Respect, Excellence and Global Citizenship. The values provided a central theme for whole school assemblies and were addressed through thoughtful, reflective and relevant student presentations.

Year 9s participated in a series of workshops, facilitated by Year Level Leader, Mike Elliott, and Care Group teachers to set goals and examine the personal attributes that support success at school.

Year 8s, indeed a significantly pleasing number, attended camp in Week 3. At the Wallaroo site they enjoyed a range of activities: kayaking, geo-caching, swimming, team building games and the iconic fashion parade. The most beneficial outcome of this event is the speed at which students get to know each other, recognise other's strengths and in some cases struggle through homesickness and separation from family, thus developing resilience and determination. The camp experience provides a great foundation for participation in a range of future opportunities.

## End of Year Challenge Tasks

At the end of the 2017 school year, students in Years 8 and 9 were involved in a variety of group managed tasks. Students were required to identify a problem that they could research and for which they could design possible solutions. Their planning and outcomes were then displayed at an exhibition held during the last week of term.

Whilst many of the students worked with social and environmental issues, a number of Year 9s developed relationships with local organisations, such as the Library, to apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills in a group setting.

The final exhibition was a very rich display of student thought and process with around 48 different groups marketing their products in a range of ways. We thank everyone who, despite the heat, was involved in this venture: students, their families, staff and local business people. It was once again a successful event, demonstrating the great capabilities of the students at Mitcham Girls.

**Zinta Ozolins**  
Assistant Principal Middle School

## Year 9 My Challenge

During Week 2, Year 9 students were involved in a program called "My Challenge". It was directed toward meeting the school goal of Excellence.

Students were asked to set personal challenges which will help them to be the best students they can and to pursue personal excellence.

They were asked to identify goals which were reasonably achievable; a challenge but not a source of stress.

Examples of challenges set by the girls included: my goal is to get seven A's in my reports; my goal is to get no Ds or Es; my goal is to get an Ambassador's Badge at the end of the year; my goal is to have all my report results read 'consistently'.

Year 8 parents had the opportunity to meet their Care Group teachers and are reminded that an opportunity to meet other parents, over a light meal, will be offered in Week 5 of Term 1. Invitations to attend will be sent home via the students.

One of the most frequent queries is in relation to homework. The school policy states that students in Year 8 should be doing no more than 30 minutes per night, whilst for Year 9s this increases to an hour. Homework should be monitored to ensure that girls are only doing what is required and not spending time on doing extra or seeking perfection; Year Level Leaders have developed a timetable which acts as a guide for curriculum areas. It is also an expectation that students do most of their learning through work in the classroom.

The next main event coming up for all our students is Sports Day on Friday 6 April. This event is attended by all students, to which parents are warmly invited.

**Zinta Ozolins**  
Assistant Principal Middle School



Of course, having a goal is not enough so the girls then focussed on developing a plan to help them achieve their goals.

Throughout the term there will be follow up lessons during Care Group focused on how to do homework effectively and how to prepare for tests and assignments.

The girls will revisit their goals and plans periodically to check on their progress and where necessary, modify their goals or plans.

**Mike Elliott**  
Year 9 Leader



# World Challenge

## Years 10 & 11 World Challenge Group: Vietnam 2017

Late last year, 15 students from Mitcham Girls High School participated in a 23-day expedition to Vietnam, supported by World Challenge and two of our staff members. This was the second time Mitcham Girls had facilitated this program and was a truly eye-opening experience for our girls. The Challenge offers students an opportunity to learn about leadership as well as a multitude of life-skills such as budgeting, communication, negotiating and organisation as students chose, organised and budgeted for their accommodation, food, transport and daily activities! A truly unique experience for 15 to 17 year olds!

On arrival in Vietnam only one night's accommodation was pre-booked for the team and only the flights in and out of Vietnam and two overnight train trips were pre-arranged: the rest was up to them!

The responsibilities of planning accommodation, transport, meals and budgeting for the whole group were rotated through the group, with pairs taking a particular leadership role for three days before picking up a new role. As a result, each member of the group gained confidence in themselves and their overall capabilities.

The expedition was made up of four key phases designed to challenge the students every step of the way:

- **ACCLIMATISATION** – The first few days are to acclimatise to the new country. This included getting used to the climate, culture, exchange rates, bartering for food and provisions, carrying a backpack and sourcing accommodation and transport. The acclimatisation phase was also a great chance for students to get used to making decisions and taking on responsibilities. This took place in Hanoi, North Vietnam.
- **HIKE** – The trekking phase was the physically challenging aspect of the expedition, a four-day hike around the hillside village of Sapa, near the southern Chinese border. This town, and surrounding villages, is home to a diverse range of Indigenous minority tribes including the Hmong and Red Dzao people.

- **PROJECT** – The project phase was a culturally demanding aspect of the expedition and lasted for 6 days. The project took place in Hue where the girls facilitated a pre-school playground renovation, employing both local tradespeople as well as participating in some highly physical earth-moving themselves. Development on the project has continued to progress since our departure, as our girls were able to fundraise enough capital to continue to pay for the workers and equipment required for the build.
- **REST AND RELAXATION** – The last week was largely devoted to rest and recreation and was a well-deserved break from the rest of the challenges faced on the expedition.

Participating in the World Challenge Expedition built the students' confidence in managing their own learning. Through immersing themselves in a new culture, students developed a global perspective in diet, environment, hygiene and living conditions across the globe. This experience delivered immeasurable benefit to the students and a learning experience well beyond anything possible in the classroom.

We are so proud of these girls and would like to officially welcome them home.

**Kate Ralph & Mike Elliott**  
World Challenge Coordinators





# Science

## RYPEN

RYPEN, the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment, is an introductory leadership development program for young people and is fully sponsored by Rotary.

It will be held from 20 to 22 April (during the school holidays) in the picturesque setting of Nunyara Conference Centre, Belair and is suitable for 14 to 17 year olds.

As a RYPEN graduate you will develop new skills in:

- Leadership
- Team work
- Problem solving
- Communication and public speaking
- Motivation and goal setting

Visit [www.rypen9520.org.au](http://www.rypen9520.org.au) for more information or speak to Liz Rogers or past awardees.

### What Mitcham Girls RYPEN awardees thought of RYPEN:

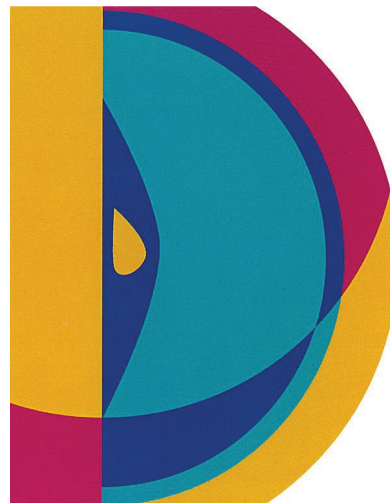
*"I enjoyed my time at RYPEN as it was a great spot to have fun. I made many friends, several of which I am still in contact with and we talk often. I learnt many valuable skills including team building along with language and communication skills."* **Isis**

*"A great weekend opportunity to meet new people, to make friendships and to develop skills that will be crucial for years to come!"* **Hiru**

*"RYPEN was a great experience where I got to develop my leadership skills and my resilience. The program focussed on teaching important things like communication, initiative and ethic skills through fun activities which allowed me to make great friends in the span of three days. Our instructors were attentive and understanding and provided us with really cool activities (Harry Potter mystery solving) and made sure that everyone had a really good time."* **Cristina**

*"Last year I was lucky enough to be selected to attend the RYPEN Leadership Camp. It was definitely a last-minute decision and something that I was not expecting to go to or enjoy. I am so incredibly thankful that I did go as I met some wonderful friends I still speak with today and I was able to come out of my shell and build my confidence. Without my time at RYPEN I would not have nominated myself for the SRC Executive as I hated public speaking. Through my time at RYPEN I was able to overcome this fear and I am better off for it. RYPEN also taught me how to handle confrontation which was incredibly useful when I was going through some personal issues late last year. My advice for every student is to apply and see what the outcome is. I assure you that you will not be sorry!"* **Caitlin**

**Liz Rogers**  
Science Teacher



**rotary youth  
program of  
enrichment**

**Rotary**  
Districts of Australia



## ConocoPhillips Science Experience

Rotary Clubs and UniSA provided sponsorship to allow several of our Year 9 students to attend the ConocoPhillips Science Experience last December.

The ConocoPhillips Science Experience features two to three days of science-based activities for students in Year 9 and 10 who are interested in Science. Participants perform experiments in laboratories, meet and listen to senior lecturers and experience life on a university campus. Each program has a STEM focus and provides information about further studies in Science, Technology and Engineering.

The girls had an amazing time and now have an even greater enthusiasm and passion for Science and STEM.

**Liz Rogers**  
Science Teacher



# STEM

## A Day at Flinders: Digital STEM Challenge

On 13 February, 22 STEM students from Years 10 and 11 attended a Digital STEM Challenge day, hosted by Flinders University at the Tonsley Precinct. The first half of the event required the students to assemble and solder their own Flinders University version of the Arduino microcontroller called the "Flinduino". These microcontrollers were then programmed by the students using C-programming coding language. In the second half of the day, students worked collaboratively and creatively to manipulate the code of their "Flinduino" and to coordinate the movements of their robot around an obstacle course.

This excursion was part of the students' first assessment task for the semester and introduced them to their major project of designing and programming a solution to "Improve Energy Efficiency in the Homes of South Australians". This project will conclude in June, where student groups will present their ideas to other participating schools, Flinders University staff and the general public.

The girls did a wonderful job at problem solving within the challenge's parameters, and should be congratulated for their persistence, team work, and growth mindset applied to their task!

**Well done girls!**

**Emily Halls**  
Science Teacher



# Whole School

## SACE Merit Ceremony 2018

Congratulations to Hibra Shujaat and Skye Hartman-Kearns for outstanding achievement in a SACE Stage 2 subject in 2017. Hibra received a merit in Modern History and English Literary Studies, and Skye received a merit in Research Project. The awards were presented in a ceremony at Government House on Tuesday 6 February.

**Deborah Dodd**  
Teacher/Librarian

## Lions "Youth of the Year Quest"

On 15 February Year 12 student Alina Jansons represented Mitcham Girls High School in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest. This was a challenging event where she faced a panel who asked questions about her achievements, and she also addressed a large public audience with a speech on a topic of her choosing. Alina chose to speak about why girls do not go to school.

As a result of her moving presentation, she won the Club Final Public Speaking section of the competition.

**Meredith Arnold**  
Year 11 Leader





# Whole School

## Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is for all students in Reception to Year 12 in South Australia, and nearly 97% of schools participate. At Mitcham Girls, this program is coordinated and promoted by the Teacher Librarian and supported through English teachers, particularly at Years 8 and 9 where participation is included in the curriculum. Last year, as an incentive, mini targets were set for students with prize draws at the quarter, half and three-quarter way marks.

It was fantastic to see a significant increase in the number of Year 8s and 9s participating in 2017, with the highest rate of participation since statistics were first kept in 2006. The percentage of Year 10 to 12s completing the PRC has also been increasing. Because of this large increase, our school was one of 55 schools invited to the Premier's Reading Challenge Reception in November last year. Two of our Senior School students, Eden White (12 years participation) and Zoe Panteladis (13 years participation) were chosen to attend the Reception at the Adelaide Zoo Sanctuary Function Centre with me, where they were presented with a dozen books for our Library collection and a certificate of congratulations by the Minister for Education in South Australia, Dr Susan Close.

Completing the PRC also earns precious House points which go towards deciding which House wins the Collyer Cup for the year, and the PRC is also included in the Ambassador's Badge.

The Premier's Reading Challenge is for all students, regardless of reading ability or language background, as books of all types (including e-books) can be selected by the student. The reading record can include books read from the end of last year through to 7 September this year. It is never too late to start, and we hope to see the number of students involved continuing to grow.

**Deborah Dodd**  
Teacher Librarian/PRC Co-ordinator



## SAPOL Youth Leadership Camp

During the Christmas holidays while some of us were relaxing and enjoying doing nothing much, Skye Hartman-Kearns (currently in Year 12) was extremely busy.

In January, she took part in the SAPOL Star Group Youth Leadership Camp in the Flinders Ranges. This highly sought-after experience challenges students mentally and physically and promotes leadership and team building. Skye was also awarded "Most Improved" out of the 20 students selected from over 200 applicants.

**Meredith Arnold**  
Year 11 Leader



# Whole School

## Peer Leader Training

In Term 4 of last year Peer Leaders attended an all-day training workshop at the Mitcham Cultural Village, learning new skills to supplement their roles as Peer Leaders in 2018.

Year 11s who apply and train to be Peer Leaders assist Year 8 students with the transition from primary school into high school. In addition to assisting Year 8 Care Group teachers, they aim to develop good relationships with Year 8 students and, as peers, assist them with both the social and academic difficulties they may encounter in the first months of high school.

**Jill Olifent**  
Student Wellbeing Leader and Pathways Coordinator



# Notices

## Finance: Payment Options

When making a payment to the school there are a number of payment options to choose from:

- Cheque - made payable to Mitcham Girls High School
- EFTPOS - in person or over the phone
- Direct Debit payment plan through the school
- Direct payment through any bank to the school's BankSA account using the Family Code as identification
- Cash

If you have any questions, please contact Sue King (Finance Manager) on 82728233 or email [dl.0903.finance@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0903.finance@schools.sa.edu.au).

**Sue King**  
Finance Manager

## Year Book

The Year Book is a collection of experiences, insights and history; something that will provide opportunities to re-visit memories in years to come. If you would like to purchase the 2018 Year Book, and your daughter is in Years 8 to 11, you can pay \$20.00 to the Finance Office, EFT online or give the school a call and speak to Sue King.

**Zinta Ozolins**  
Year Book Committee

## Career Website

A website providing valuable career investigations, quizzes and general information about careers, SACE, VET, work placements, gap years, resumés, youth allowance and much more is now available to all Mitcham students and families. The website is [www.mitchamgirlscareers.com](http://www.mitchamgirlscareers.com).

## Kyre Avenue Car Park

Please be reminded that the Kyre Avenue car park is owned by the City of Mitcham. The disabled car parks are for people who hold a Disability Parking Permit. If you do not hold a Disability Parking Permit you may incur a parking fine.

Please also be considerate of other parents and drive at a safe speed when collecting your daughter.