

WHAT, WHEN & WHY

No. 2, 27 March 2017, Term 1



Kyre Ave
KINGSWOOD SA
P 8272 8233
F 8373 3013

www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au
dl.0903.info@schools.sa.edu.au

From The Principal

Dear Mitcham Families,

Most of you would be aware that in November 2016 the Department for Education and Child Development Review Team conducted a review of our School. We have now received the final report which will soon be published on our website.

The following is a summary of their findings and recommendations for further development:

“Mitcham Girls High School has experienced growth in achievement in NAPLAN and SACE, and the girls are performing consistently above students in similar schools within DECD. There is a strong commitment from the whole school community towards the education of girls.

The Principal will work with the Education Director to implement the following Directions:

- 1. Further increase the expectations and achievement of students by building teacher capacity to design learning and use assessment to enhance student achievement.*
- 2. Utilise and enhance existing curriculum leadership structures to develop consistent and agreed understanding and application of contemporary teaching and learning practices.*
- 3. Consistently implement the existing performance development program/line management process to ensure teaching and learning practices are based on data and evidence and aligned to the Site Improvement Plan.*

Based on the school's current performance, Mitcham Girls High School will be externally reviewed again in 2020.”

As stated last year, we have already begun to address each of the three recommendations so as to continue on our journey to become an excellent school. You may find that our expectations of students will continue to increase so that each student can strive to achieve the best possible educational outcomes.

I thank all parents/families who responded to the satisfaction survey last year. It is evident from your responses that the greater majority of parents are highly satisfied with the opportunities available to students, the safe and clean working environment, behavior management and leadership. I trust that we can continue to work together to make this an even better school.

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From the Principal (cont.)

Open Day Working Bee: Saturday 6 May, 8:30am - 12:30pm

We have been very busy getting ready for Open Day which will be held on Monday 8 May. As you know the school will be on show and although our groundsperson maintains the school exceptionally well, at this time of the year, some “extra hands” to do some extra jobs around the school would be appreciated. If you can do a bit of gardening, sweep, dust, clean computer screens or tidy up our garden beds, please come along even if it is for sixty minutes or less. Please put this date in your diary.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Centre

Commencement on the new STEM Centre (3rd floor of main building and upgrade of Library) has stalled a little. Draft plans, however, have been forwarded to DECD and DPTI for approval. As soon as these are finalised and they become “user friendly” they will be published on our website. Demolition is not likely to start before Semester 2 but hopefully it will be completed within 12 months.

End of Term: No early minutes!

A gentle reminder, that at the end of each term we finish at the usual time of 3:15pm. Every lesson counts and we teach until 3:10pm at which point students will be issued with their reports. This also applies to the Thursday before Easter. Please be aware that reports will not be issued before 3:10pm under any circumstance. I can say with confidence that the last day of each term is a normal teaching day and parents must not allow students to take the day off.

Holiday Lessons for Year 12 Students

As usual, our teachers are prepared to give up some of their holiday time to provide extra tuition to their students. The timetable will be posted on our website as soon as it is finalised.

Wishing you a relaxing holiday break.

Antoinette Jones

Middle School News

Year 8 Parent Evening

On Wednesday 1 March, staff members met with many of our Year 8 students and their families to share a light meal and refreshments and the opportunity capped off a very pleasing start for Year 8 families and teachers. It was the first occasion that staff and families have had the opportunity to meet and interact on an informal level since beginning the high school journey at Mitcham Girls. Despite the blistering heat outside, the atmosphere in the boardroom was relaxed and friendly and many parents commented on how wonderful it was to meet the families of their daughter’s new friends.

Special thanks must go to the many staff who attended and assisted in serving the meal and staying back to clean up.

Dana Thomas | Year 8 Manager

NAPLAN Test

In order to continue successfully supporting, or extending and challenging our students, the school will again be involved in the required testing of Literacy and Numeracy levels of students in Year 9. The NAPLAN Test will take place on 9, 10 and 11 May. Students will complete paper tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. They may be withdrawn for religious beliefs or philosophical objections, but the appropriate form must be completed. If you would like further information please contact Zinta Ozolins on 8272 8233 or email zinta.ozolins995@schools.sa.edu.au.

Zinta Ozolins | Assistant Principal Middle School

Arts News

Fringe Performances at MGHS

On Monday 20 February we were privileged to host the World Premiere Performance of *Stimela - The Gumboot Musical*! This performance had the entire audience clapping and we were all in awe of the performers' energy as they stomped and clapped, creating percussive sounds with their bodies. This group was in Adelaide to perform at the Festival Fringe.



Below are some student reviews:

'Stimela - The Gumboot musical, was a performance like no other. Drama, humour, suspense - it had it all! Gumboot dancing started in the oppressive gold mines of South Africa. Forbidden to speak while working, the slaves developed their own form of communication by slapping their gumboots and rattling their ankle chains. I was privileged enough to watch this spectacular performance by Mthakathi Productions and the Garage International. It was the company's first time in Australia.' **Asha Foster** | 8.07

'The performance as a whole was truly original. The five dancers all executed each rhythmic slapping movement with precision. The live music and dance really brought the performance together.' **Katie Beck** | 8.09

'There was a narrator who spoke in English to help us understand the story. He portrayed an older version of one of the dancers.' **Ashley Kemp** | 8.06

'The dancers had so much energy. In the question and answer session we learnt that the dancers did a lot of the choreography themselves.' **Vanshika Syal** | 8.08

'I believe Stimela is a great musical for people who want a cultural experience.' **Lisa Hutchens** | 8.05

'The musical is a celebration of song and dance; however, Stimela's main moral was to show people the importance of friendship.' **Fatema Anwar** | 8.05

On Tuesday 14 March, we were enthralled by a performance from the *African Entscha* – a 5 piece Acapella group. With their exquisite harmonies and high-energy African dancing, with soulful and uplifting songs, we were smiling from the moment they started singing.

Ann Gatis | Music Teacher

Sports News

House Captains

Congratulations to the six Year 8 House Captains elected on the Year 8 camp in week 4. They join the other captains elected towards the end of 2016 to lead their House until the end of Term 3.

	Mitchell	Fraser	Spence
Year 8	Maddy Walpole Nyari Grzyb	Katie Beck Amy Redjepi	Georgie Welsh Michaela Collins
Year 9	Alisha Ingham	Tamrah Steer	Jacinta Sydenham-Carter
Year 10	Hayley Meyer	Harmony Rist	Claire Collins
Year 11	Sophie Kent	Sydney Schultz	Martina Giurelli
Year 12	Deborah Katembwe	Maddy Williams	Maya Linsner

Swimming Carnival

On 22 February, Mitcham Girls High School held their annual Swimming Carnival. The day began with all House Captains decorating their sections in their house colours to claim their territory in the stands. Throughout the day, students from Spence, Mitchell and Fraser battled in the pool in novelties, relays and championship events to fight for the 2017 MGHS Swimming Carnival Championship.

As the day drew to a close, the House Captains had their houses in full voice to help their competitors over the line to earn their house as many points as possible. Spence would prove triumphant on the day, winning all three trophies, the Junior Cup, Senior Cup and overall Championship to claim Swimming Carnival glory.

Well done to all competitors who swam hard throughout the day, to the House Captains who organised their teams, to all staff who assisted with various duties and to the parents and family members who came to support their daughters. We look forward to an even bigger and better Swimming Carnival in 2018!

	Junior Cup	Senior Cup	Overall
1st	Spence (250)	Spence (296)	Spence (546)
2nd	Fraser (245)	Fraser (250.5)	Fraser (496)
3rd	Mitchell (184)	Mitchell (206.5)	Mitchell (391)

Year Level Champions

Congratulations to the following students who were crowned year level champions for accumulating the most championship points throughout the carnival. Champions and Runners-up were presented a medal during the presentations.

Year 8	Winner: Asha Foster	Runner-Up: Georgie Welsh
Year 9	Winner: Nicola Lieff	Runner-up: Jacinta Sydenham-Carter
Year 10/11	Winner: Ella Nixon-Dores	Runner-Up: Georgia Tucker

Dimi Sianis | Sports Assistant





Interschool Swimming

We congratulate our Interschool Swimming Team who competed at the State Aquatic and Leisure Centre early in March. We were represented in every event and finished 2nd in our grade, by only 22 points to Woodcroft College. Much of this was due to the excellent team spirit and cooperation on the day, where our Mitcham students, as always, were great ambassadors for the school. We congratulate all place getters in events, but recognise that all swimmers scored points for the school on the day to help our overall result.



We thank the parents who came to support their daughters.

As well, our thanks to our timekeepers, Amanda Nixon, Grant Williams and Louise Sim and our student time keepers, Ashlyn, Mya and Carly.

Thanks go to Bri Parsons for her overall organisation and enthusiasm in preparation and on the day, and to Sue Howlett for her support.

Team members:

Year 8

Brooke Burns
Asha Foster
Madi Phillips
Amy Redjepi
Violette Walker
Georgie Welsh

Year 9

Nicola Lieff
Ashlyn McDonald
Odette Sim
Mya Smith
Jacinta Sydenham-Carter

Year 10

Ella Nixon-Dores
Georgia Tucker
Millie Thompson

Year 11

Skye Hartman-Kearns
Amber Mysiszczew
Carly Williams

Year 12

Tori McDonald
Maddy Williams

Sue Howlett | Year 12 Teacher

Science News

Big Science Competition

The Big Science Competition is an online 50 minute, 30 multiple choice competition testing critical thinking and problem solving skills, not just factual recall. Questions are set in real-life, contemporary contexts, making them interesting!

Each student will be given a certificate of their achievement and will go in the draw to win cool prizes, just for taking part. Our school could win a 'Science Experience' to meet the Surfing Scientist Ruben Meerman.

Cost: \$7.70. Pay at the Finance Office by Tuesday 11 April.

Helen Marussinszky | Science Coordinator

STEM News

Mitcham Girls FTC Team

In 2017, Mitcham Girls High School will be entering its inaugural First Tech Challenge (FTC) team. The team consists of students ranging from Years 8 to 12 and they will be working together throughout the year to build and program a robot to compete in the national competition in December.



On Thursday 2 March, seventeen students went on an excursion to Trinity College where they worked with the Championship Team from 2016. During the day the girls learnt a lot: the finer details of the competition; how to code in JavaScript; how to program and steer the robot.

Throughout 2017, the team will be holding various fundraisers to help support their journey to the national competition which will be held in Sydney. Stay tuned for upcoming events as they unfold.

Below are some photos from the day at Trinity College.



Next Tech Girl Superhero Competition

Have you recently identified a problem in your community? Do you like working in groups? Believe that you have what it takes to be an entrepreneur? Want to learn more about building mobile apps? Then this competition is for you!

As part of the Next Tech Girl Superhero competition, teams of girls from all over the world learn to and apply the skills needed to solve real-world problems through technology.

In Australia from March to July, teams participate in the Search for the Next Tech Girl Superhero competition, with a chance to become the State and National winners in Australia and New Zealand.

For more information see or email Simon Brooks at simon.brooks378@schools.sa.edu.au or go to <http://www.technovationchallengeapac.org/>.



Mitcham Girls Shapeways Store

In 2017, Mitcham Girls is proud to announce the opening of the Mitcham Girls Shapeways Store. The online store will provide a platform for students to showcase their 3D designs on a global scale. Students throughout their Technologies subjects will be utilising 3D design software and the 3D printers to test and prototype their projects. Once projects are finalised and checked, the students will then have the option to upload their designs to the online store so they can select a material in which they wish to 3D print their designs. Other members of the school community can then purchase these designs through the online shop as well.

To view the store, go to link below for some of the current models that have been uploaded
<https://www.shapeways.com/shops/mitchamgirls>.

A list of different materials available and their shipping times can viewed at
<https://www.shapeways.com/materials>.



STEM Sista Mentoring Program

Mitcham Girls High School has once again been invited to participate in the STEM Sista Mentoring Program which is a professional development program designed for girls in Years 9 and 10.

The aim of the program is to develop confidence in young women to ultimately achieve the goals they set for themselves in STEM related pathways.

The main focal areas for the course are:

- Understanding yourself and others (Emotional quotient, financial quotient, personality profiling, personal presentation, etc.)
- Where can you go and how can you get there (Pathways to STEM careers, or related careers, subject choices, courses at university, how and when to apply, writing a resumé, applying for a job, etc.)
- When you are there (Entry via graduate programs and work experience, mentoring, networking, how to disagree agreeably, dress for success and much more)
- Guest speakers each day (STEM Mentors) from a variety of STEM professions and backgrounds will speak with the girls.

Dates: Monday 10 April – Thursday 13 April

Times: 8:45am for a 9:00am start, concluding at 5:00pm

Catering: Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea included

Venues: Days 1 and 2 Adelaide - University of Adelaide, North Terrace
Days 3 & 4 - Corporate Office in the CBD

Please note, each school is only allowed a maximum of four students per school so if your daughter is interested in participating in the next STEM Sista program contact Simon Brooks for more information.

You can also check out some of the STEM Sista promotional material online at the following links:

2016 STEM Sista Graduation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67oOluP6LOY>

2016 STEM Sista Alumni Event: <https://youtu.be/K4H0HeBu39k>

To apply, students need to email Simon Brooks at simon.brooks378@schools.sa.edu.au with a short explanation why they want to be part of the next STEM Sista program.

Applications close: Wednesday 29 March

3D Printing Competition

The Advanced Technology Project together with the Royal Adelaide Show presents the fourth annual 3D printing competition for schools.

The Competition is open to all South Australian secondary students in the categories of *Sculpture*, *Functional Object*, *Moving Object* and *Space +* in both junior and senior groups.

The 3D solutions will be showcased in the Advanced Technology Centre at the Adelaide Showground for the duration of the 2017 Adelaide Show.

Registrations for entry are online and close on Friday 30 June 2017 (entry fee is \$4.00).

For entry criteria and further information visit <http://dlb.sa.edu.au/atmoodle/> or www.theshow.com.au, click on 'Show Entries' then 'Competition Details & Entry Forms', scroll down to the Technology Icon.

Simon Brooks | STEM Coordinator



Senior School News

SACE Day

On Monday 6 February all Year 12s spent the day at the Cumberland Park Community Centre for SACE Day. A day dedicated to preparing students for the challenges of the oncoming year.

Students participated in a range of activities throughout the day. First up was 'Speed Dating' which encouraged them to talk and interact with other students they might not know or speak to that often.



After a short recess break provided by the Care Group teachers, students got together and wrote letters to themselves for the end of Year 12, setting goals, providing advice and reflecting on where they had come from and where they might like to go.

The afternoon saw ex-Mitcham Girls students come back to speak with the Year 12s about their experience and what wisdom they might be able to pass on. They spoke about the challenges of time management, stress and it being okay that you might not know exactly what you want to do with the rest of your life right now.

To tie the day together, before they were allowed to be dismissed, students had to pass from one side of skipping rope to the other, that is the cohort in its entirety, without the rope stopping. It required a bit of trial and error and lots of teamwork to help students not as confident pass through. It was great to see all girls help each other out and shout encouragement and support.

Overall, the day helped set the scene for the Year 12s, provide information about SACE and scaling and providing assurance and inspiration for their final year of high school.

Gemma Brunckhorst | Year 12 Manager

SRC Report

On Monday 20 February the Year 12 SRC Executive attended the GRIP training day along with many other schools in Adelaide. The day included learning strategies to be a good leader and how to work to be a coherent SRC group. From that day, we took the many skills we learnt to our in-school SRC training day on Friday 24 February.

The SRC training day consisted of getting to know your fellow peers and brainstorming ideas for the upcoming year. This day was also filled with enthusiasm and excitement for the year ahead.



Summer Bowles | SRC Coordinator

Senior School News

Leadership and International Women's Day Assembly

On Monday 6 March we recognised 2017 Leadership and International Women's Day at a Whole School Assembly. Year 12 student Esther Burnett, as part of her Women's Studies class, addressed the assembly and engaged the audience with historical and current relevant information on gender equality and women's rights.

Mr Rick Persse, Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Child Development, also spoke about International Women's Day and presented the 2017 SRC with their leadership badges.

A range of leadership badges were presented to students in the following areas:

Year 11 Peer Leaders

Husna Arief Azali, Nicola Bray, Reegan Chenoweth, Sophie Dawes, Chanel Duval, Claudia Earnshaw, Kristie Huggard, Alina Jansons, Lauren Jury, Sabrina McGrath, Briana McTier, Nameera Mansuri, Isabella Middleton, Fizza Munem, Maya O'Loughlin, Ashlee Parrott, Cecilia Ronson, Jade Seidel, Sydnie Schultz, Jasmine Wilson, Kyra Wilson.



Maths Leaders

Husna Arief Azali, Subin Kim, Izzy Lean, Nameera Mansuri, Hirumini Matarage, Fizza Munem, An Kim Pham, Keera Poole, Helen Quach, Jennifer Quach, Cecilia Ronson, Anoushka Siddharth, Minh Anh Thi Tran, Natasha Wallace.



Year 8 House Captains

MITCHELL: Madeline Walpole and Nyari Grzyb
SPENCE: Georgie Welsh and Michaela Collins
FRASER: Katie Beck and Amy Redjepi

Student Representative Council (SRC)

The SRC representatives from every year level also received their badges and gave the Oath of Office in front of the school.

Year 12 SRC - Executive

SRC President / Communications	Yovani Pillay
School Improvement	Isabelle Brealey
Wellbeing	Isabel Lean
Global Citizenship	Zali Craig
Fundraising	Danielle Hughes



Year 11

Cecilia Ronson, Alina Jansons, Sydnie Schultz, Claudia Earnshaw, Caitlin McNamara.

Year 10

Hannah McGrath, Rebecca Cid, Noor Sajjad, Michela Skipp

Year 9

Odette Sim, Alana Williams, Isabella Moore, Bonnie Charvel, Mahrukh Shujaat

Year 8

Mia Bowles, Sarah Burnett, Ashley Kemp, Molly Bolt, Sophie Field



Whole School News

To further celebrate International Women's Day, on 8 March decorations, flags and a banner were placed in prominent positions around the school by the SRC reps. All the decorations followed the theme of green, purple and white, the colours of International Women's Day. As a part of the celebrations the Canteen catered for brunch on the Friday which took place in the pavilion and attracted a lot of attention.

Gemma Brunckhorst | Assistant Principal Whole School Events

International Women's Day Breakfast

On Friday 10 March the SRC Executive: Yovani Pillay, Danielle Hughes, Zali Craig, Isabelle Brealey and Isabel Lean accompanied by Ms Carpenter, Ms Thomas, Ms Connelly, Ms Hosking and Ms Tomlian attended the 25th South Australian UN International Women's Day Breakfast at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The event, attended by over 2,800 guests, reflected upon and celebrated the achievements of women around the world.

Students were able to meet and have photos with the Hon Ms Julia Gillard, Senator Penny Wong and Premier Jay Wetherill.

The event's principal speaker, the Hon Ms Gillard, spoke of her work in the capacity as Chairperson of the Global Partnership for Education where she cited the example of Malawi and the lack of educational opportunities for girls. An issue close to our own hearts, the education of girls is still an ongoing global issue.

Ms Gillard cited data indicating that about 130 million girls around the world were not attending school through to secondary school, with most coming from the poorest countries.



She went on to say that only 26% of low-income countries had as many girls as boys in primary school, while that figure dropped to just 10 per cent at secondary level.

And additionally in our own country many children, in a range of ages, are challenged to be able to access their educational opportunities.

As part of our post breakfast discussion we reflected, and acknowledged as something special, our own circumstances and the opportunities that we, as both students and teachers, have in accessing education in our country and at Mitcham Girls High School.

Below is the link to Ms Gillard's presentation at the breakfast
www.facebook.com/abcadelaide/posts/10158464986715604.

Colleen Tomlian | Year 10 Manager

Whole School News

International Students

On Tuesday 7 March a wonderful day was had taking our International students and Year 10 SRC students to visit to Gorge Wildlife Park. Our students were able to: cuddle a koala; feed some kangaroos and get up close and personal with many other Australian native creatures. We then travelled to the giant Rocking Horse where the girls bravely climbed to the top and enjoyed the views of the surrounding hills. Sampling and seeing how chocolate is made at Melba's Chocolates was a delicious way to complete the day in the Adelaide Hills.

Summer Bowles | International/Exchange Program Coordinator





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RYPEN The Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment is an introductory leadership development program for young people, sponsored by Rotary. If you are aged 14-17 years you have the opportunity to attend this weekend Live-in seminar in the picturesque Adelaide Hills. Jam packed with informative presentations from leadership professionals, group sessions and recreational activities, the RYPEN seminar is a highly effective leadership and personal development experience.

As a RYPEN graduate you will develop new skills in:

leadership
team work
problem solving
communication and public speaking
motivation and goal setting

Diary Dates

March	Friday 31	Sports Day	
April	Wednesday 5	Year 10 Risky Business	9:00am - 2:15pm
	Thursday 13	End Term 1: Reports distributed	3:10pm
May	Monday 1	Term 2 commences	
	Wednesday 3	Parent / Teacher Interviews	3:00 - 700pm
	Thursday 4	Parent / Teacher Interviews	3:40 - 700pm
	Monday 8	Open Day / Night	9:00 - 11:00am 5:00 - 8:00pm
	Tuesday 9 - Thursday 11	Year 9 NAPLAN Test	
	Monday 16	Higher Ability Selection Test (Year 8 intake 2018)	9:15am
	Tuesday 17	Gift Dance Auditions (Year 8 intake 2018)	9:15am
	Thursday 18 - Friday 19	Year 12 Retreat	
	Monday 22	Student Free Day	
	Tuesday 23	Principal's Tour	9:15am
	Monday 29	Governing Council	7:00pm
June	Monday 8	Principal's Tour	9:15am
	Tuesday 13	Student Free Day	
	Monday 19 - Friday 23	Year 10 & 11 Exams	
	Wednesday 21	Year 12 Drama Production	6:30pm
	Thursday 23	Semester 1 ends	