November 2014 Newsletter

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Dates to Remember November/December

The Mitchell High School Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) meets on the second Wednesday evening each month at 7.00pm in the Mitchell High School Common Room. All parents/carers and friends are welcome to attend.

P&C Meeting
Wednesday 12 November

Year 12 Formal
Thursday 13 November

Year 9 Yearly Exams
10-21 November

Year 10 Yearly Exams
10-21 November

Year 7 2015 Orientation Day
Wednesday 3 December

Presentation Day
Thursday 4 December

Last Day for Students 2014
Wednesday 17 December

First Day Students Years 7 and 11
28 January 2015

First Day Students Years 8, 9, 10 and 12
29 January 2015

Relieving Principal’s Report

The HSC examinations are now all completed. The past twelve months has been stressful for both the students undertaking the HSC and their families. I would like to congratulate year 12 for lasting the distance and their families for supporting them throughout. I would also like to congratulate the students for the way that they conducted themselves during the examinations. The Presiding Officer appointed by the Board of Studies to oversee the examinations at Mitchell High School has commented to me that this year, HSC students have been very well behaved and have indeed resonated what it is to be a REAL student at Mitchell High. A huge thank you must go to all the teachers who sweated over preparing the students for the examinations, they worry and fret each and every year in preparing the students. I wish the students the very best for their results and look forward to celebrating with them the next milestone of being in Year 12, the Formal.

Safe Celebrating

- Parents please be aware that it is the silly season with students finishing their Higher School Certificate. After Formal parties are very popular with students. If you are aware of these events taking place please ensure that the venue is being well supervised by responsible adults.
- Ask your son or daughter about invitations and whether they were distributed with strict RSVPs and check lists at the front door or entry.
- Ask the host about security and if the party has been registered with the police.
- Alcohol is an issue as some students at the after party will be under age and alcohol consumption and the provision of alcohol to people under 18, is illegal and involve many risks with regard to legal issues, liability and the health of young people.
• Transportation to and from the party is another responsibility. Ensure that this is planned so that students do not take risks to get home.
• It is important that all students who are to attend their formals abide by the school’s code of conduct regarding behaviour.

World Teachers Day
The 31st October was World Teachers Day. The theme was “Invest in the future, invest in Teachers”. I am amazed on a daily basis by the professionalism and dedication of the teachers here at Mitchell High School. Teaching your children is a joy, however, it also carries a great responsibility.

“(Teachers) will keep on being able to inspire, drive, motivate, correct, and demand the highest standards of their youngsters. We all know that teaching is an art and a science - and it’s mostly hard, slogging, work. We teachers have also to be knowers, carers, actors, head coaches, naggers, humdrummers, stirrers, listeners, suser-outers, intuiters, creators, pacifiers, and masters of repetition, and so on. We have to be people who keep hanging in there as members of what the OECD has so accurately described as the knowing and caring profession.”

International Links
We welcomed back our German cousins. It has been 14 years of visits between Dietrich-Bonhoeffer Gymnasium and Mitchell High School. What a special and wonderful relationship our two schools have. Thank you to Mr Turner for his organisation of their stay and thank you to all of our families that opened their homes and hearts and helped to make wonderful memories. A special thank you to Mr and Mrs. Stopps for their hospitality in hosting the group on their final night.

This week we host two youth ambassadors who are from our new sister city school in Sesoung gu. We thank the Ashby-Brigandi family for their hospitality in hosting these bright young ladies who are here to take part in the youth ambassadors conference in Perth but have taken a short detour to visit Mitchell high so they may provide an insight to their peers of what they might experience when they visit us in August 2015.

Mr Turner and Ms Mehic are busy organising our 2015 Europe Trip. Mitchell High is a school that is a pioneer in international school tours. It is often said that travel broadens the mind; however with a closed mind to new experiences and new people it may simply reinforce prejudice and a view that nowhere can be better than home. Cultural exchanges such as the one we have; living in each other’s homes, attending school, visiting friends and family take us all to a much greater understanding of each other. It shows us how much we are alike and at the same time how different from each other we can be. It is not about comparisons, but trying to break down barriers and cultural stereotypes. It goes a long way in dispelling perceptions and misconceptions based on ignorance or worse the media’s interpretation of each other.

Elena Marinis
Relieving Principal

Relieving Deputy Principal’s Report

It is continuing to be a very busy term with final exams and assessments being completed by all students. A reminder to all students that this is a pivotal time and that efficient organisation and time management is critical in achieving quality results.

As always at Mitchell we have a range of great programs running for our students which include programs on Leadership, Goal Setting, Planning for the future and a range of other crucial life skills. All students are encouraged to listen to the daily notices during roll call or announcements on assembly for opportunities that may become available.

Getting to Class on time
We have had a particular focus recently on students moving quicker in between break times to attend class. I have discussed this on assembly and raised it as an issue that had to be addressed. I congratulate the students in responding positively and with maturity to this instruction and there has been a distinct improvement in this area. I have been particularly impressed how many students are engaging in active ball games at break times and are recognising the importance of leading an active lifestyle. We certainly encourage students to get involved in games and be active however, once the bell goes the game needs to stop and students need to move to their next class promptly.

Use of Facebook
Facebook has been widely used for many years and many parents are users of Facebook. Changes occur to Facebook on a regular basis and the privacy features on a student’s Facebook account should be reviewed regularly. In particular parents can talk to their children about:

• Only accepting friend requests from people they actually know and are friends with in person.
• Only allowing friends to see their updates, activity and photos.
• Only allowing friends to send them messages and write on their wall.
• Keeping information about themselves private – don’t put addresses or phone numbers online.
• Blocking people who behave inappropriately towards them online and report this to both Facebook and their parent/s or teachers at school.

For further information about managing privacy settings on social media sites, an excellent resource for parents to support their children is


Computer Games and the Impact on Teenagers
Many of you can probably relate to having a teenager at the moment who continually wants to play video games. This is becoming an increasingly big issue in society and at
school we notice every day the impact it can have on an adolescent’s development. If you are dealing with this situation at home, below are some tips on how you can address the issue with your child.

**Tips on how to beat a computer game addiction**

1. Help the young person realise they have a problem by looking at how they feel about school, their friends, socialising face to face and participating in other activities.
2. Make sure the computer is not in their bedroom but a common area of the house like the lounge or rumpus room so that they cannot hide away and play all the time.
3. Computer games should be played in free time so help decide when free time is and what other commitments they might have (e.g. chores, homework, other activities).
4. Go to bed earlier and earlier. Often, someone addicted to computer games will stay up late. Get them to go to bed earlier each day, so instead of the early hours of the morning it is a reasonable time in the evening.
5. Replace computer time with more productive activities. They can exercise, read, place board games or do something else that stimulates and interests them.
6. Encourage them to go out with their friends more. Friends are important in life: they’re there to support you.

**Relieving Deputy Principal**

Colin Campbell

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**Relieving Deputy Principal’s Report**

**Year 12 (2015) Assessment Schedules**

All students in Year 11 should now have their assessment schedules for their HSC year. This was accompanied by a lesson with our Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, Ms Starink on assessment procedures. Students now fully understand the implications of not completing assessments on time and how this impacts their final assessment marks sent off to the BOS next year. It is very important that all course work, assessments and practical tasks are completed on time and to the level expected of a Year 12 student. Students were asked to take home a note to be read and signed by their parents in relation to consequences for not completing assessments.

Any student who receives an N-Award letter will forfeit their Tuesday afternoon privilege of going home. They will be required to stay back at school and go to the library to complete any work owing.

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**Year 11 school times**

By now most Year 11 students have settled into their pattern of study for their HSC year. This means that most will have a STUDY period during the day. Students are allowed to be in the Senior area or the Library to be completing homework, assessments or study only. They are not allowed to be in any other area of the school.

Parents and students are also reminded that the school day has not changed for the Year 11 students. They are required to be at school from Roll Call until the end of period 6. Going home if period 6 is a study period is not an option until next year.

Students are NOT to leave the school grounds during the school day, including recess and lunch. Any student that does so will be dealt with through the normal discipline procedures.

**Year 9-10 exams**

Year 9 and 10 yearly exams will continue through until the end of this week. Students have been doing revision in classes but must also complete study and revision at home to ensure success in their exams. If a student is absent on the day of an exam they must see the Head Teacher in charge of the subject to work out a catch up time for the exam. Please encourage your child to study and perhaps even help by asking questions of their subjects and helping them to gain confidence in their ability. A study by Hoover, Dempsey and Sandler outlines that parental engagement in education of their child has a positive impact on their children. This is but one way parents can be involved in their children’s learning.

**Road Safety**

Again the issue of road safety needs to be addressed as there are still too many students who are leaving the school in the afternoon and not following appropriate road rules. Students must use the pedestrian crossing properly and not be running across the road where it suits them. Please discuss this issue with your children.

**Before school supervision**

There is limited supervision of students at school before 8.30am. Students must be seated outside the Admin building until this time. There are to be NO ball games played before school and definitely nothing on the COLA area.

**Vivo’s – School Reward System**

Staff are using vivomiles to reward our students that are doing the right thing, actively engaged in the classroom and participating in school events. These points all go to their House’s as well and the winning House is offered a
reward day at the end of the year. Currently the House points are:

Brigalow – 41855
Cooramyn – 36184
Kareela – 36879
Mirrabooka - 38847

By years:
Year 7 – 42424
Year 8 – 29755
Year 9 – 29458
Year 10 – 30034
Year 11 – 15158

Congratulations to the following students who have the most points for this year:

Sarah Cupitt Year 7 493pts
Maddison Hamilton Year 7 472pts
Christine Tint Year 7 437pts
Marie Lee Year 7 427pts
Tara Johnston Year 7 417pts
Isaac Dolan Year 7 415pts
Kahlia Grace Year 10 412pts
Kasey Crampton Year 8 408pts
Wuraoa Olayiwola Year 7 406pts
Prince Marfo Year 11 399pts

Students are reminded that they can log into their Vivo account and use their points to purchase items out of the shop. There are some really cool prizes in there so get spending!!!!!

Uniform
From 2015 the school will have new uniform provider called The School Locker. The current uniform providers will finish up on the 28th November and therefore we will not have any uniform being sold in December. The School Locker will be open for the week prior to school starting and the whole of the first week back to ensure parents plenty of opportunity to purchase the correct uniform. Please be reminded that NO items of uniform are allowed to be worn that are not purchased through our school supplier. They have the school logo or initials on all items so are easily identifiable. The new suppliers will also be stocking school shoes and stationary items so that students have them available at all times.

If anyone has any uniform items not being used anymore and are in good condition then we would be happy to have them donated to the school to use for students who have ripped or damaged items. Please bring them to the front office.

School times
The first bell goes at 8.50 every morning and all students need to be at school prior to this to ensure they are not late to rollcall.

Roll call is an opportunity to receive valuable information about the day, upcoming events and other items for year groups. Students who regularly miss roll call are missing out on this valuable information. We also use Roll call as an opportunity for students to participate in D.E.A.R (drop everything and read) and PBL lessons which are relevant to the school behaviours. Students who are late are marked according to the time they arrive and you may receive a text message about it. This is recorded on the school and DEC’s official records for each student’s attendance.

Please support the school in ensuring your child is here on time and ready for learning with all of their books, clothing and equipment.

Mrs. Lee-Anne Pares
Relieving Deputy Principal

PDHPE
This term at Mitchell High we started the inaugural weekly Lunch Time Games. To commence the competition, we started off with a round robin of 6 teams playing Touch Football. So far the competition has been showcasing the athletic ability and competitiveness of some of our students and is great for other students to sit by, spectate and cheer on their friends. We also have to give a big shout out to Mr. Fabricato and Mr. Kelshaw for being regular referees for the games. At the moment it is the Year 11 team in front on the leader board with the other teams close behind!

Next term (Term 1 2015) we are going to run the Lunch Time Games for Soccer. If you are interested start getting your teams together!

Mrs. Spadina
Relieving Head Teacher
PDHPE

Sport Report

Sport Uniform on Tuesdays
Could you please ensure that your child has their sport uniform ready for Tuesday. If the uniform is misplaced, lost or in the wash they will still be allowed to participate if they bring a note and alternate sports gear. Students will be allowed to participate if they have running shoes but will be issued with a uniform note for the incorrect uniform. Students who do not bring their full PE uniform will be sent to Sport detention for the afternoon.
Tuesday Early Leavers and Sickness
Students who require an early leaver’s pass on Tuesday are to bring a note with a parent/caregiver contactable phone number on it. Students are to bring this note to the AV room at Recess. Students who are sick or injured are to bring a note to be signed by Mrs Maguire in the PE staffroom by the end of Recess. These students will then go to the Library during sport time.

Yr 7 and 8 Blacktown Zone Gala Day
Year 7 and 8 participated in a sporting gala day organised by Blacktown Zone. The students enjoyed playing games of soccer, Netball and Touch Football against other schools in the Blacktown Zone.

Under 15’s Knockout Netball
Congrats to the Under 15’s Knockout Netball team who competed in the Sydney West Under 15’s Knockout Netball competition. The team had some competitive games against other schools and played in a fair and friendly manner.

Duke of Edinburgh Award
There are currently openings in the Duke of Ed program for any student in Yr 9 or above to join. The Award involves students learning a new skill, doing volunteer work and participating in physical activity as well as going on an overnight hike. For more information please see Mrs Maguire in the PE Staffroom.

Mrs. Maguire
Sports Co-ordinator

Tournament of Minds: Australasian Pacific Championships

Mitchell High School's state finals winners for Tournament of Minds have returned from competing in the Australasian Pacific Championships in Melbourne on October 18th and 19th. The national level of competition was also host to international teams including representatives from New Zealand and Thailand. Our Applied Technology team, consisting of Jordan Ashby-Brigandi, Jasmin Li, Chantelle Lowther, Celina Tran, Mitchell Kerr, Bojan Gutic and Dale Lee-Eyles, joined the sixty-eight other teams competing for trophies in four categories.

There was an official opening at the Victorian Basketball and Hockey Centre on Friday. Following the opening, students explored Melbourne Zoo and the surrounding city as a part of a Survivor Challenge. Saturday was an exciting day at La Trobe University where the students again used their skills in lateral thinking, creativity, teamwork and performance to solve a problem in just three hours.

While they did not walk away with a trophy, that honour going to Victoria in the Applied Technology division, the team represented Mitchell High with maturity, respect and good sportsmanship, making many new friends from other schools in New South Wales and throughout the country.

We want to thank the students for their wonderful effort getting to the highest level of the Tournament of Minds competition, the first time Mitchell has done so in five years, and the first time in this discipline. We would also like to thank the parents of our students and the staff who helped make this trip possible.

We look forward to another fun and exciting year of competition in 2015.

Mrs Mahony & Ms Bell
FIRST Lego League 2014

Saturday November 8th saw the fifth year of competition for Mitchell High School at the FIRST Lego League Competition at Macquarie University. With two teams competing, students have worked tirelessly for the past eight weeks in sport time and lunch times and have given up many hours after school to prepare.

Our teams were made up of seven students from years 7&8 and included; Dylan Mallia, William Wade, Pauline Deliso, Danny Makhoul, Adrian Bruzzese, Clayton Hahn and Bojan Gutic. Both teams performed admirably, displaying FLL core Values and gracious professionalism towards other teams and competitors. While neither team scored in the top five to advance to National level this year, they provided very tough competition and we look forward to coming back even better in 2015.

FIRST is “For Inspiration & Recognition of science and Technology”, a not for profit organisation that strives to encourage young people across the world to experience and enjoy programs that involve technology, engineering, innovation and science. Their support of mentor-based programs, like their collaboration with the Lego Corporation to create the robotics league, develops teamwork, collaboration, lateral thinking, self-confidence and other vital life skills. FIRST Lego League requires students to build an autonomous robot to complete a challenge course full of obstacles. They must also create a research presentation based on the theme for the year.

FLL is open to students in years 7-10 and is great fun. We encourage girls and boys with an interest in problem solving, robotics and science to join us for the 2015 season.

Ms Bell

Visit from our German Sister School

During October Mitchell HS had the privilege of hosting one of our sister schools, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Gymnasium from Wertheim in Germany. They arrived on Saturday 11th October and stayed with families from MHS until Thursday 16th. For the majority of the German students this was their first trip down under and during the five days in Sydney they got to do a range of activities and see many of the sites of our amazing city.

Blacktown Council was also keen to show some local hospitality and put on a catered Civic Ceremony at the Blacktown Council Chambers. This included a behind the scenes tour of the building which was a first, not only for the German tourists, but many of our local host families too.

After their departure on the 16th the group travelled around NSW before returning to Sydney on the following Wednesday. We had the opportunity to say one last goodbye with a fantastic BBQ for the visitors and their MHS host families.

After leaving Sydney the following morning they flew to Alice Springs and started a week’s camping adventure in the outback. From all accounts they had a fantastic time and arrived home in Germany safe and sound 10 days later.

Thank you to all the families that so generously opened their houses to the visiting students. I’m sure it was just as valuable for your family as it was appreciated by our German friends. I’m sure many life-long friendships for formed over those five days.

I would encourage all families, who are able to do so, to consider hosting a student when one of our sister schools come to visit. Having a student from another culture is a valuable experience and one, I’m sure, your family would enjoy.

Mr Turner
FIRST Technology Challenge 2014

Saturday and Sunday November 8th & 9th saw the first year of competition for Mitchell High School in the FIRST Technology Challenge (FTC) at Macquarie University. This being our first year in the competition our team struggled to get started but the students worked tirelessly for the past five weeks in sport time, lunch times and many after school hours to prepare.

Our team is made up of eight students from years 10 & 12 and included; Zerene Catacutan, Mitchell Galliani, Jamison Ghinis, Ethan Longhurst, Jack McIlwain, Matthew Taylor, Kelly Thomas and Dylan Wang. The team performed admirably placing 5th in the Regional Tournament and will be progressing to the National Tournament held at Macquarie University on the 6th & 7th December.

FIRST Technology Challenge requires students to build and program a robot that works both in an autonomous and controller driven mode to complete a challenge course. They must also provide engineering journals of the entire project.

We would like thank all parents/ caregivers for all their support and wish the team the best of luck for the National Tournament.

Ms Stavropoulos

Labscene

On the 12/6/14 Yr12 Senior Biology went on an Excursion to the UNSW Museum of Human Disease with Mrs Rao, Mrs Walker (Davey) and Mr Debrincat. This first-hand experience allowed students to see real life specimens and study the impacts of certain diseases on certain organs. AWESOME!!!

The museum contains over 3,000 specimens, which display diseased human tissue at the macroscopic level preserved in plastic pots. Specimens are obtained both from organs removed surgically and from tissue obtained at autopsy, where the natural history of disease is in full view. Each specimen is numbered and is accompanied by a clinical history. Some specimens are over 100 years old and are irreplaceable.

Specimens are arranged in one of two major groups - pathological processes such as congenital and vascular or by organ systems, such as renal and skin. Each specimen is numbered and accompanied by a clinical history (if known), a description of the evident abnormalities, and a histological description of changes (if relevant). That information, specific to each of 30 areas or “bays”, is found in the catalogues located within each bay.

The museum contains examples of infectious and non-infectious diseases. Some of the infectious diseases on display, such as diphtheria and typhoid, are now quite rare in Australia due to vaccination and public health programs. Other infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and HIV, still remain killers in the community.

Non-infectious diseases may be caused by genetic or lifestyle factors, or a combination of both. The museum has a number of inherited and congenital diseases on display,
and visitors can see how lifestyle choices can have drastic effects on the body. The Museum of Human Disease was established by Professor Donald Wilhelm, foundation Professor of Pathology at the University of New South Wales. Thanks to his foresight, and to the tireless efforts of Dr S.G. Higgins (Museum Curator of longstanding), the Museum has been meticulously updated and maintained over the years to reflect the changing patterns of disease in our society.

As the structure of Medical Schools have changed, so too have Pathology Museums. The need for a more inviting study area was evident. For many years the Museum, although rich in terms of its history and specimen collection, was simply an area where these specimens only were housed. In order for Museum visits to become attractive, the atmosphere had to change.

Mr Debrincat
Head Teacher Science

Science Encouragement Award - Term 3 2014

For the third time this year at MHS, the Science Faculty will be presenting Science students with an award called the “Science Encouragement Award”.

- One student from every Science Class in Yr 7-10 is nominated for this award once a Term by their Science Teacher.
- To become a recipient of this award – the student must be a Respectful, Engaged, Active, Learner in the classroom, show interest in the subject, has made a consistent effort with their learning, shown improvement and is willing to get involved in all activities.

The winner of such an award will receive:

- A Science Encouragement Award Certificate to add to their Portfolio
- 5 Vivo-points will go towards their Vivo account
- 5 points will go towards their House
- A McDonald’s Food Voucher worth $10
- As well as their names being announced at assembly and published in the Electronic School Newsletter.

The Recipients of the Science Encouragement Award for Term 3 2014 are:

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<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<td>Class</td>
<td>Surname</td>
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<td>7J</td>
<td>Attard</td>
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<tr>
<td>7A</td>
<td>Cole</td>
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<td>7S</td>
<td>Sweeney</td>
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<td>White</td>
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<td>7G</td>
<td>Kumar</td>
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<td>7C</td>
<td>Hoang</td>
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<td>7E</td>
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<td>Surname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8A</td>
<td>Nguyen</td>
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<tr>
<td>8B</td>
<td>Grech</td>
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<td>8C</td>
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<td>Neskes</td>
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<td>8G</td>
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<tr>
<td>9B</td>
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<td>Lockley</td>
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<tr>
<td>9G</td>
<td>Ruatita</td>
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<td>9H</td>
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Just to add a little more excitement to this award – Mrs Marinis selected one recipient from each year group by placing all of the Term 3 recipients into a hat and drawing a winner to receive a Hoyts Movie Ticket.

The Recipients for the Movie Ticket are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Surname</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Student</td>
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<td>Kevin</td>
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<td>Chebat</td>
<td>Christine</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Matur</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>Matthew</td>
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It gives me great pleasure to announce that this year's recipient of the Victor Chang Award goes to a Year 11 student by the name of Wenlu Duan. The presentation of the award took place on Tuesday 4 November 2014 at Blacktown City Council. Please join me in congratulating Wenlu.

Mr Debrincat
Head Teacher Science

Science Assessment Dates – Term 4 2014

- **Year 7**: Yearly Exam – during weeks 3 and 4 (30%)
- **Year 8**: Yearly Exam – during weeks 3 and 4 (30%)
- **Year 9**: Yearly Exam – during weeks 5 and 6 (35%)
- **Year 10**: Yearly Exam – during weeks 5 and 6 (35%)

Yr12 (2015) Assessment - Term 4:

- **Biology**: Prac Task 25% due in Wk7
- **Chemistry**: Research Task 20% due in Wk 8
2014 HSC Results Published on Wednesday Wk11 17/12/14

2014 Youth Eco Summit (YES) Excursion Report

On the Wednesday 22nd of October, Mitchell High’s Year 8 Science and Year 9 and 10 Geography, self-select students went to Newington Armory at Sydney Olympic Park to participate in the 2014 Youth Eco Summit (YES) program. More than 6,300 Australian and international students joined forces to workshop environmental, cultural and economic sustainability.

YES 2014 involved students from 137 primary and secondary schools participating in more than 50 curriculum-linked active workshops, interactive displays, seminars and shows that were all aimed at increasing our awareness of the importance of creating a more sustainable future.

The workshops that Mitchell High students were directly involved with included a presentation about the “Impacts of Climate Change and Global Inequality amongst food producers”, a workshop called “Mobile Phone Autopsy” and lastly a presentation about “Renewable Energy”. We were also permitted time to explore all the other interesting stalls on show with the objective of finding out as much as we can about what was on offer. We came away with a greater understanding of how everyone, from individuals to large companies, can all contribute to looking after our Earth.

After a very stimulating and informative morning, we visited the nearby Blaxland Riverside Park for lunch and a short play before returning to school.

By Sarah Cupitt
Year 8 Science

Yr12 Chemistry Elves - Wishing you all a MODEL Christmas

Teacher - Mrs Duffell
The CREW – An Update

The CREW (Comradery Respect Education Work) is a group of 12 students who have been selected to participate in a landscaping program every Friday. The aim of CREW program is for the students to learn the many and varied skills of landscaping from practical hands on experience while at the same time improve the appearance of the school grounds.

So far they have completed one half of the twin gardens entering the COLA, the 50th anniversary pavers square and the azalea garden bed next to the hall. Set for completion in coming weeks are the other half of the twin garden and the outdoor chess area.

The CREW would very much like to acknowledge the assistance and support of Bunnings, Seven Hills for supplying wheelbarrows, tools and discounted plants and Rod Higgs from McDonalds, St Martin’s Village who provides lunch for all CREW members on the last Friday of each month. This support is very much appreciated by all.

Key Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Day 2014 (Students)</td>
<td>17 December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>18 December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Holidays</td>
<td>18 December to 26 January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>19 December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>27 January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1 Years 7 and 11</td>
<td>28 January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1 Years 8, 9, 10, 12</td>
<td>29 January 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Staff and Students at Mitchell High School would like to wish you a happy and safe holiday season.
The Maths Report

Yearly Examinations

Year 9  Weeks 5 and 6
Year 10  Weeks 5 and 6

Australian Mathematics Competition
The Australian Mathematics Competition took place in August this year. This is a prestigious competition that attracts competitors from around the world. It is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to solve higher order mathematics problems.

Mitchell High School has a great tradition in this competition and has achieved excellent results in the past. This year we had 99 students participate in the competition. Congratulations to all students who participated. The following students received top marks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Yee Mon Khin</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Adrian Bruzese</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cindy Li</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Maryam Lalee</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jackie Zhou</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nathan Ison</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Harsimran Kaur Saini</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jason Mckenzie</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Liam Dean</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Matthew Taylor</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Jason Ison</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Luke Nguyen</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Luna Park Mathematics Excursion
Reminder to all Year 9 students, who are wishing to attend the Maths excursion to Luna Park on Friday 12th of December. Students should have paid their money by the 31st October to secure their position.

Students who have paid will need to bring their own money for food and souvenirs, if wishing to buy at the venue.

Students must wear school sports top and comfortable closed in shoes. Students are encouraged to wear sunscreen and have a hat on the day.

Get ready to enjoy a fun day out.

8M2 student comments following a practical period on the playing fields. 3/11/14
Some student reflections following outdoor group work:

I liked doing practical work for Maths because it was a good change and it made us all think outside the box. I enjoyed the challenge of applying my knowledge of Maths to the real world. – Logan, Leon, Elma and Ines.

We found this type of learning activity was very useful and interesting. It taught us how to apply Maths to our daily lives. – Porsha, Toby and Anthony.

Fun! It was a challenging activity. – Rose, Niti and Cloey.
Had fun doing this practical project. – Aashir, Bikram, Romeo and Meetamar.

I enjoy having Maths. It’s fun, creative and it’s MATHS. – Henry.

The students of 8M2 recently spent a period of practical investigation on the school playing fields. This followed a theory lesson on some applications of the properties of similar triangles. The students worked in six small groups using a worksheet with particular investigation methods for each location. The field work included the measurement of shadows and the use of mirrors to calculate the heights of buildings, trees and goal posts. The students also created a pair of triangles to calculate the width of a channel without crossing it. An extra type of activity involved estimations based on a student’s height, which can have useful practical applications in a range of contexts.

What did we discover? Maths can be used in real life, and some things are simpler on paper. The students experienced Maths as a way to engage with the world in which they live. Most of the students also seemed to enjoy the change of learning style and space.
Make Online Payments

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school's website by selecting $Make a payment$

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). Please note that Tuesday afternoon Sport payments cannot be made using the Online Payment system. There is also a category called Other this to cover items not covered in the previous headings. Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the $Make a payment$ you must enter:

- the students name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.
Who is The School Locker?
The School Locker is an exciting new division of Harvey Norman. Our goal is to provide great shopping experiences for families and our retail stores are centered around a single great idea: one store with everything you need for school.

Working in partnership with your school.

Your on-campus uniform store
The campus store is open during school term at the following times:

Tuesday: 8am - 12pm
Thursday: 12pm - 4pm

We aim to provide you and your family with excellent service, quality products and a wider product range than you’d usually expect to find at a school uniform store.

Back to School trading hours
Mon 19 January: 8am - 12pm
Tues 20 January: 8am - 12pm
Wed 21 January: 8am - 12pm
Thurs 22 January: 8am - 12pm
Fri 23 January: 8am - 12pm
Mon 26 January: Closed (Public Holiday)
Tues 27 January: 8am - 4pm
Wed 28 January: 8am - 4pm
Thurs 29 January: 8am - 4pm
Fri 30 January: 8am - 4pm

Payment options
The School Locker accepts cash, EFTPOS, Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

Can I order my uniforms online?
Products are available for purchase online at our website: www.theschoollocker.com.au.

From our website you may choose to have your order shipped to you, or you may collect your order from the campus store.

Check the website for availability in 2015.

School shoes
Great quality school shoes are available for purchase from the uniform store - in styles that have been approved by the school.

The School Locker recommends that school shoes are fitted several weeks before the school year commences. It is important to allow enough time for your child to wear in, and feel comfortable in, their new school shoes before the first day of school.

Stationery and sport
A great range of essential stationery items and sports equipment are also available for purchase from the uniform store throughout the school year.

website www.theschoollocker.com.au
phone (head office) 07 3440 9701
email service@theschoollocker.com.au

Mitchell High School
Respectful, Engaged & Active Learners

NSW Education & Communities
Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy  
(Information Evening, Wednesday 19th November 2014)

The Mitchell High School Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy is a strategy being implemented in Term 4, 2014 for increasing student learning through engagement. As the use of technology in classrooms increases, it is necessary for students to be allowed to maximise their learning potential through the use of electronic devices. With the end to Federal Funding of the Digital Education Revolution (DER) program in 2014, students will no longer be issued with a laptop by the DEC.

Mitchell High School will be allowing students to bring their personally owned laptops to school. It is essential that these laptops are suitable for use at school. Please see the Mitchell HS Device Specifications list and the laptop must fulfil the Minimum System Requirements (go to the school website for more information).

Before students will be allowed to bring their own laptop, students and their parents/carers must read the Mitchell HS Bring Your Own Device Policy (see in this Newsletter) and the Mitchell HS BYOD Student Agreement (go to the school website for more information). The agreement must be filled in, signed and submitted in the box at the school’s Front Office. Any questions should be addressed to the school and clarification obtained before signing the agreement.

Once the agreement has been confirmed by the school, students will be issued with an Approval Sticker. The Approval Sticker must be attached to the laptop before it will be allowed to be used in classrooms.

A BYOD Information Evening will be held on Wednesday 19th November, 2014, in the school hall, commencing at 6pm. The BYOD Policy will be explained and staff will be able to answer questions.

Dr Munro-Smith
Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

INFORMATION EVENING

WEDNESDAY 19\textsuperscript{TH} NOVEMBER, 2014

6 – 6:30 PM

SCHOOL HALL

Your questions answered:

- What is BYOD?
- How will it work at Mitchell HS?
- What are the minimum requirements?
- How do we apply for approval?

Parents and carers are encouraged to attend
Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) is a program that permits students to bring their own electronic devices to school.

1 Purpose

1.1 Rationale
In 2013, the NSW Department of Education and Communities announced that laptops will no longer be provided to Year 9 students in Government Schools as it had done over the past four years. By facilitating Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), Mitchell High School empowers its students and gives them direct involvement in the way they use technology in their learning.

1.2 Objectives
- To facilitate and promote the bringing of an electronic device to school by students for use in their education.
- To provide a safe and supportive environment in which students can achieve Objective 1.
- To ensure a minimum standard of device compatibility.
- To enable students to use technology to further their learning.
- To provide a basis on which Mitchell High School teachers can continue to tailor lesson delivery so that students can use their devices in class toward specific learning outcomes.

2 Scope and Definitions

2.1 Parties
This agreement is between Mitchell High School and a student currently attending or who will be attending Mitchell High School, and his or her parent or carer.

2.2 “Student” and “Students”
Reference in this agreement to Student or Students means a student currently attending or who will be attending Mitchell High School and his or her parent or carer.

2.3 “Bring Your Own Device Student Agreement”
This agreement may be referred to as the Bring Your Own Device Student Agreement or BYOD Student Agreement.

2.4 “Device”
Reference in this agreement to Device means an electronic device brought by a student to Mitchell High School pursuant to the school’s Bring Your Own Device program and this BYOD Student Agreement.
3 Equipment

3.1 Custodianship
The device brought to school pursuant to this policy must be able to be brought on every school day and be solely the student’s to use throughout the school day.

3.2 Choice of equipment
The device must meet all the requirements of the Device Specification. This includes meeting any required physical device characteristics. The Device Specification is a separate document available from Mitchell High School.

3.3 Damage or loss of equipment
3.3.1 Students bring their own device for use at Mitchell High School at their own risk.

3.3.2 For the removal of any doubt, Mitchell High School will not be responsible for any loss, theft or damage to:
   a) the device
   b) data stored on the device
   c) while the device is at school or during a school-related activity, absolutely, in negligence or otherwise.

3.3.3 Parents and students should consider whether their device requires insurance and whether specific accidental loss and breakage insurance is appropriate for the device.

3.3.4 In circumstances where a device is damaged by abuse or malicious act of another student ("the other student") the Principal may, having regard to all the circumstances of the matter, determine whether the other student is responsible for the damage to the device and whether costs incurred in the repair of the device should be borne by the other student.

3.3.5 In accordance with clause 6.4 below, students should not bring peripheral equipment, including power charges and cables to school with their device. Liability for damage or loss of peripheral equipment will in all circumstances be borne by the student.

4 Standards for equipment care
Students are responsible for:
   a) Taking due care of the device in accordance with school guidelines.
   c) Backing up all data securely. All electronic data and resources used for school coursework must be stored on another device or electronic medium accessible on demand. Students must not rely on the continued integrity of data on their device.

5 Misuse of equipment and communication systems
5.1 Standard school discipline procedures apply for misuse of the device contrary to this BYOD Student Agreement or other school rules.

5.2 Examples of action the school may take in cases of misuse include:
   a) the device is taken away by a teacher for the remainder of the lesson
   b) the device is taken away by a Head Teacher or Deputy Principal for the remainder of the school day and/or until a parent or carer picks up the device
   c) permission for the student to bring their device to school pursuant to the Bring Your Own Device policy is revoked
   d) conventional discipline procedures including detention or suspension where deemed appropriate pursuant to the school’s discipline procedures.
6 Acceptable equipment and communication system use
6.1 Use of the device during the school day is at the discretion of teachers and staff. Students must use their device as directed by their teacher.

6.2 The primary purpose of the device at school is educational.

6.3 Students must bring their device to school fully charged.

6.4 Students should avoid bringing peripheral device equipment to school with the device. Peripheral equipment includes:
   a) chargers
   b) charging cables
   c) docking cradles, with the exception of a docking cradle that includes a keyboard integrated into the peripheral
   d) adapters for the connection of video output or data transfer

6.5 While at school, ALL material on the device is subject to review by school staff.

6.6 Students are to connect their device to the designated wireless network only. Students are NOT to connect their device to other wired, wireless or cellular networks whilst at school.

6.7 Students are NOT to create, participate in, or circulate content that attempts to undermine, hack into and/or bypass any hardware and software security mechanisms that are in place.

6.8 Upon enrolment into a New South Wales Government school, parental/carer permission was sought to allow the student to access the Internet at school, based on the Department of Education and Communities’ policy Online Communication Services: Acceptable Usage for School Students (PD/2002/0046/V04). Extracts are provided below. This policy forms part of this Bring Your Own Device Student Agreement.

6.9 The policy Online Communication Services: Acceptable Usage for School Students (PD/2002/0046/V04) applies to the use of the device and Internet on the device:
   a) at school
   b) when in connection with a school-related activity, school-related program, including coursework, outside school.

Online Communication Services: Acceptable Usage for School Students

The following is an excerpt from the Online Communication Services: Acceptable Usage for School Students (PD/2002/0046/V04) policy. The complete Online Communication Services: Acceptable Usage for School Students (PD/2002/0046/V04) policy is available for viewing at:


4. Responsibilities and delegations
4.1 Access and Security
4.1.1 Students will:
   - not disable settings for virus protection, spam and filtering that have been applied as a departmental standard.
   - ensure that communication through internet and online communication services is related to learning.
   - keep passwords confidential, and change them when prompted, or when known by another user.
   - use passwords that are not obvious or easily guessed.
   - never allow others to use their personal e-learning account.
   - log off at the end of each session to ensure that nobody else can use their e-learning account.
   - promptly tell their supervising teacher if they suspect they have received a computer virus or spam (i.e. unsolicited email) or if they receive a message that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.
• seek advice if another user seeks excessive personal information, asks to be telephoned, offers gifts by email or wants to meet a student.
• never knowingly initiate or forward emails or other messages containing:
  o a message that was sent to them in confidence.
  o a computer virus or attachment that is capable of damaging recipients’ computers.
  o chain letters and hoax emails.
  o spam, e.g. unsolicited advertising material.
• never send or publish:
  o unacceptable or unlawful material or remarks, including offensive, abusive or discriminatory comments.
  o threatening, bullying or harassing another person or making excessive or unreasonable demands upon another person.
  o sexually explicit or sexually suggestive material or correspondence.
  o false or defamatory information about a person or organisation.
• ensure that personal use is kept to a minimum and internet and online communication services is generally used for genuine curriculum and educational activities. Use of unauthorised programs and intentionally downloading unauthorised software, graphics or music that is not associated with learning, is not permitted.
• never damage or disable computers, computer systems or networks of the NSW Department of Education and Training.
• ensure that services are not used for unauthorised commercial activities, political lobbying, online gambling or any unlawful purpose.
• be aware that all use of internet and online communication services can be audited and traced to the e-learning accounts of specific users.

4.2 Privacy and Confidentiality
4.2.1 Students will:
• never publish or disclose the email address of a staff member or student without that person’s explicit permission.
• not reveal personal information including names, addresses, photographs, credit card details and telephone numbers of themselves or others.
• ensure privacy and confidentiality is maintained by not disclosing or using any information in a way that is contrary to any individual’s interests.

4.3 Intellectual Property and Copyright
4.3.1 Students will:
• never plagiarise information and will observe appropriate copyright clearance, including acknowledging the author or source of any information used.
• ensure that permission is gained before electronically publishing users’ works or drawings. Always acknowledge the creator or author of any material published.
• ensure any material published on the internet or intranet has the approval of the principal or their delegate and has appropriate copyright clearance.

4.4 Misuse and Breaches of Acceptable Usage
4.4.1 Students will be aware that:
• they are held responsible for their actions while using internet and online communication services.
• they are held responsible for any breaches caused by them allowing any other person to use their e-learning account to access internet and online communication services.
• the misuse of internet and online communication services may result in disciplinary action which includes, but is not limited to, the withdrawal of access to services.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements
5.1 Students will report:
• any internet site accessed that is considered inappropriate.
• any suspected technical security breach involving users from other schools, TAFEs, or from outside the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

5.2 Students should be aware that:
• their emails are archived and their web browsing is logged. The records are kept for two years.
• the email archive and web browsing logs are considered official documents.
• they need to be careful about putting their personal or sensitive information in emails or on websites.
• these records may be used in investigations, court proceedings or for other legal reasons.
PCYC are an accredited provider of the Safer Drivers Course.
Guiding young people in the right direction since 1937

The Safer Drivers Course involves two modules:

**Module one:** A three-hour facilitated group discussion on how to manage risks on the road. This will involve a maximum of twelve participants and will be delivered by a facilitator.

**Module two:** A two-hour in-vehicle coaching session to develop low-risk driving strategies. This will involve two participants and a coach. **Course cost: $140**

Participants must have completed 50 hours of actual on-road driving experience to be eligible for the course. Credits gained under the 3 for 1 scheme cannot be included.

Participants who complete the course will receive 20 hours credit recorded in their learner driver log book.

To find your closest club or book into the next available course check out our website:

[www.saferdrivers.org.au](http://www.saferdrivers.org.au)

Call us on 9625 9111 or drop into your local club to find out more

PCYC Blacktown 30 Second Avenue Blacktown P: 02 9622 3470 E: blacktown@pcycnsw.org.au
Free Professional Support for NSW Parents

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our service and to inform you of how we can be of assistance to the parents of your students. Parent Line NSW is a state funded program managed by CatholicCare Sydney. In the last financial year the program provided counselling, support, referrals and information to more than 8,500 people who were involved in raising a child. 33% of callers have used the service before and have found it so helpful they have called back.

Parent Line helps parents with a wide range of issues regarding their teenage children such as strengthening negative relationships, managing risk-taking behaviour including drug and alcohol use, difficulties in school and mental health issues in the family. Parent Line counsellors can support parents whose teenage children are gaining assistance from youth services. Our counsellors are all fully trained professionals with specialised experience in working with families from many different backgrounds.

Our service opening hours are 9am to 9pm weekdays and 4pm to 9pm on weekends. Callers can leave a message outside of these hours and they will receive a call back during the next operating period.

Free publicity material is available on www.parentline.org.au and the Parenting Counsellors can be accessed for the cost of a local call from a landline (some charges apply to mobile phones) on 1300 1300 52. Parents can also email the counselling team for information and further support on info@parentline.org.au.

Sincerely

The Parent Line Counselling Team
2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight 16 June 2015

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- A $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer.
- A $165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here’s a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-14 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY
- ONLINE – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE
PHONE  Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

$150* TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS

2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM
* eligibility criteria apply

APPLY ONLINE NOW!
FORMAL & GRADUATION Photos Now Available For Online Purchase

4 Easy Steps to Online School Photos Ordering

Step 1: Go to www.advancedlife.com.au and enter your school code [F2P BMF D6K]
Step 2: Select “EVENTS” and choose the images you would like to purchase
Step 3: Enter Your Students Details (all orders will be returned to the school for collection.)
Step 4: Pay for the photos via the shopping cart (upper right corner of the page).