April 2014 Newsletter

Contact Details

Relieving Principal  Mrs T Baghurst
Deputy Principal    Ms E Marinis
Relieving Deputy Principal Mrs L Pares
P&C President       Mrs C McMillan
Address            Keyworth Drive Blacktown 2148
Telephone          9622 9944 / 9622 8926
Fax                9831 2805
Email              mitchell-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website            www.mitchell-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
SMS Absences       0427 463 129

Relieving Principal’s Report

It has been a very productive term 1 at Mitchell High School. I would like to thank the professional staff, the families of students and the students at Mitchell High School for their ongoing high quality work in and out of the classroom. We have:

- Celebrated our success in the HSC in 2013.
- Developed school assessment booklets for 2014 and posted these on the Mitchell High School Website.
- Successfully started the implementation of the National curriculum.
- Students were engaged across subject areas and many varied excursions to support learning.
- Implemented a HSC study day for all year 11 students
- Worked extensively on the Super 6 program to improve Literacy and Numeracy outcomes.
- Students were engaged in our 50th Anniversary celebration, enabling them to see the curriculum of that era.
- Hosted our sister city school from Switzerland and participated in a range of sports programs. We have been finalising our planning for our exchange with the USA which is to take place in September this year. We have also been working with our sister city schools in Germany and China to arrange a visit by these schools,
- Implemented a range of welfare strategies to assist our school community including Police talks, Meet the Teacher Evening, Peer Tutor training, Itrack interviews, The Take 5 program, The I Discover program, SRC Leadership Day, The Boys Education camp, Clean up Australia Day, A school dance and continued our Vivos program.

We also opened our school to prospective parents and students at our Year 6 into 7 information day which was well attended by very enthusiastic Year 6 students and their families.

Dates to Remember March/April/May

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 9 April / Wednesday 7 May

Cross Country
Thursday 3 April

Half Yearly Exams
Years 11 & 12 (31 March – 11 April)
Years 9 & 10 (5 – 16 May)

NAPLAN (Years 7 & 9)
Tuesday 13 – Friday 16 May

Last Day Term 1 2014
Friday 11 April

First Day Term 2 2014 (Students)
Tuesday 29 April

Athletics Carnival
Monday 12 May

Year 11 & 12 Parent/Carer Teacher Interviews
Tuesday 20 May
The senior executives have been revising the school plan to accommodate the additional resources of $700,000.00 that the school has received. These funds will allow students and teachers to implement strategies to further improve equity of positive learning and welfare outcomes for all students.

Our 2013 Annual School Report is accessible from our school website next term. This evaluates our school plan, demonstrates school evaluation of the National Partnership program that is Super 6 and our implementation strategies for the National Curriculum. It also includes tables indicating our achievements in NAPLAN and the HSC among other areas of evaluation.

So again, THANK YOU for the part you played in the continued construction of a strong educational community at Mitchell High School. Have a safe and happy holiday ready for another term of renewed challenges and achievements!

Mrs Baghurst
Relieving Principal

Deputy Principal’s Report

On behalf of Mitchell High School I would like to welcome our friends from Lycée Jean Piaget, Neuchâtel Switzerland. This is the second time a group has travelled to Australia and visited us at Mitchell High School. This is the first trip to Australia for all of the students but not their teacher Mrs Anne Maree Barnes and Ms Petra Koch, who have been with us before and are now considered as part of the Mitchell family.

This cultural exchange provides so many opportunities for staff and students and we highly value the friendships formed. Last year Mrs Maguire, Mr Turner, Miss Scheerhoorn and 29 students visited Germany, France and Italy and of course the picturesque Neuchâtel. Our students were hosted by Swiss families and were shown a fabulous time. In many cases the students who billeted the Mitchell students in Neuchâtel are now being billeted by our students.

It was wonderful to see how many greeted each other on Sunday morning as they stepped off the school bus from their long journey, the big smiles and heartfelt embraces as they once again saw each other. This is indeed the real benefit of cultural exchanges such as this. The friendships that last for life, the understanding of each other that only come from meeting first hand.

We find that with many of our Year 7 students that one of the many reasons given by families wishing to attend

Mitchell High School is the possibility of travelling or hosting students from an overseas school.

It is often said that travel broadens the mind. It can, however, if all that we see is from the window of a tour bus in the company of our fellow countrymen, then travel may simply just reinforce prejudice and a view that nowhere can be better than home. Cultural exchanges such as the ones we have here at Mitchell High can take us all to a much greater place and allow for a richer understanding of each other. It shows us at the same time how much we are alike.

Neuchâtel has a rich and complex history. As a friendly and small-sized city located half-way between Zürich and Geneva, Neuchâtel hosts a total student population of about 4,000. As a result, you’ll find a young and cosmopolitan atmosphere, with plenty of things to see and do. Beautiful historic architecture, numerous coffee shops and restaurants, Neuchâtel is also close to many forests, some of which offer attractive lakeside walks, as well as the Botanical Gardens. It is also a country that knows how to make the best chocolate.

To our Swiss visitors, thank you for choosing to visit us yet again. You are in for a great time, make the most of every opportunity and you will leave us all a little richer. Finally I would like to thank all of the families who billeted students and the tireless efforts of the team coordinating this visit. Special thanks Ms Scheerhoorn, Mr Turner, Mrs Maguire, Mr Campbell, Mrs Pares and to all the staff for opening their classrooms to our Swiss students.  

Bienvenue en Australie bienvenue dans notre maison!

Examination Period: Time to get organised

We are now over the half way mark of the term and students have now settled into the routine of school life and are busy completing assignments and our seniors are preparing for Half Yearly Examinations.

For young people to negotiate the challenges of adolescence and schooling requires a healthy sense of self-esteem and self-confidence. Cultivating resilient habits and mindsets in our students is something we need to focus on in our every action and every word every day to ensure they develop a belief in their self-worth and value as a person.

Conversations and activities at home, at school and in the community about understanding the importance of feeling good about themselves and being enabled to look at life in the eye are crucial in building young citizens with spirit and confidence. We need to use positive psychology in all of our teaching and interactions with our students.
Reducing Anxiety

Ten exam techniques tips which can be used:

1. Have all necessary material with you.
2. Have a relaxing night before your exams. Have an early night, and have a healthy breakfast.
3. Read the entire paper.
4. Plan your time.
5. Jot down ideas as they come to you.
6. Don’t leave any questions unanswered.
7. Never leave the room early.
8. Do not spend too long on multiple choice questions.
10. Maintain a stable energy level. Focus on the question at hand. Don’t let your mind wander.

“Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open” – Thomas Dewar

“You must expect things of yourself before you can do them.” – Michael Jordan

Ms Marinis
Deputy Principal

Relieving Deputy Principal’s Report

It has been a very busy term and we are ¼ the way through our school year. I hope everyone has a very safe and enjoyable holiday break and that the Easter Bunny is good to all.

N-Awards

There are a number of students in Years 9 -12 who have already been issued with N-Awards. It would be a great idea to use these holidays to catch these tasks up and submit on the first school day next term. Students need to remember that even if the task is overdue it still has to be completed and submitted or else they are affecting the achievement of the RoSA, Preliminary HSC or HSC. It may even result in the student needing to repeat their academic year. The school offers help in many ways for students struggling with their work and they need to ask their teachers for the necessary information to get the work completed.

Homework centre

Next term the school will be starting up a homework centre for students to use on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. This will provide students with a safe and supportive environment to be able to concentrate on completing assignments and assessments, study for exams and tests and complete homework tasks. It will run in the school library and provide internet access as well as the range of resources that are available there. At this stage the centre will run from 3.10 – 4.10 on these days and will have supervision from a staff member who will be able to help with any of the tasks students are completing. Parents and students will be able to book in as well as other students who just want to drop in. Students will be made to sign in and out of the centre and given a card signed by the staff member rostered on for this day so you will know they did attend. More detail will be sent home with students in the first week back next term. We are hoping to be up and operating by week 2.

Uniform

Just a reminder to all families that full school uniform is expected every day of the school week. Students are not to wear or bring any jumper/jacket that is not the school one or the Year 12 jerseys. We are seeing far too many variations in the form of jackets and students are being asked to remove them. The uniform shop is open on Tuesdays (8am-12pm) and Thursdays (12pm-4pm) if you need to update any of the uniform items.

Any donations of school uniform, which is no longer of any use to your children, can be taken to the front office to be added to our uniform pool.

While it is perfectly natural for them to experience self-doubts and have butterflies, our influence needs to be to get the butterflies flying properly. Being vigilant and always on the lookout for warning signals that their self-esteem is declining and then acting to remedy it, will keep their wellbeing in fine tune.

It’s all about helping them to not only “do the right thing” but also “do the thing right”. The ideal approach is for the students to sit down on a Sunday night and preview the upcoming week on a day-by-day basis. They should write down any assessments due, home learning and priorities. Other commitments and things they are involved in should be recorded under ‘Things to do’. This is an excellent way to develop the valuable life-long skill of prioritising. Doing this allows them to make any adjustments they may need to make to their Home Learning/Study Timetables. Circumstances continually change and as such their timetables should be regularly fine-tuned accordingly.

Make time for rest, relaxation and fun. It’s important to set goals, take care of business, and get everything in order but we must still make time for fun and relaxation.

Ms Marinis
Deputy Principal

Add new subheadings to the following bullet points:

1. Make time for rest, relaxation and fun.
2. Take care of business.
3. Get everything in order.
4. Make time for fun.
5. Balance work and relaxation.
6. Priority setting.
7. Time management.
8. Self-care.

Relieving Deputy Principal’s Report

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VIVO update

Please remember to ask your students about their Vivo accounts and encourage them to log on regularly. Parents can also have a password to check their own child’s accounts to see the type of things they are being rewarded for. I sent the letters home last year but am happy to reprint for those of you who may have lost them. Year 7 parent letters will be sent in week one of term 2 so keep an eye out for it. Students can also download an app to be able to check their accounts on their mobile devices very simply. Lots of students are using their points to purchase items out of the shops and there is still an iPod in the shop waiting to be purchased!!!

Parent/Carer Teacher Night Online Booking

We will be introducing an online booking system for the Parent-teacher nights to be held in term 2. Year 11 and 12 will be our first trial of the system and more information will be sent home first week back about how to do this.

Swiss Visit

Thank you to all the parents and families who hosted the Swiss students. There were many tears at the farewell on Monday morning (even some grandparents!!). The friendships the students have developed will last a lifetime.

Parent tips from the DEC on relevant issues affecting families

The DEC regularly provide some relevant sources of help and support for families and students. Here are a couple that might be relevant to some families:

Kik, Vine, Instagram – are they safe

It’s no contest – kids discover and understand new social media long before we adults do. If your child is thinking about creating a new social media account – or complains that “everyone else is doing it!”, you can get the facts from School A to Z’s technology glossary. You’ll also find information about age restrictions and things to watch out for: http://bit.ly/188OerY

Essays due soon?

Learning how to plan, write and polish an essay is a skill that takes a long time for most people to learn. Different types of essays follow different rules of structure. If your teen is currently working on an essay, you’ll find this video (and the links to fact sheets on the right hand side of the page) really useful in explaining the “how to” of essay writing as it’s taught in NSW public schools: http://bit.ly/1ji1mZ

Mrs Pares
Deputy Principal (Relieving)

Labscene

Australian National Chemistry Quiz 2014

The Australian National Chemistry Quiz will be held on Thursday 19 June 2014. However, the closing date for entries is on Friday 2 May 2014. The cost of entry is $5.00.

The competition provides an opportunity for students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. The Australian National Chemistry Quiz aims to promote interest in chemistry and the role of chemists in our society. It is not a nationwide assessment of chemistry knowledge, but rather an opportunity to promote chemistry and for teachers to gauge the understanding their students have of the subject.

Each student who participates will receive a Certificate of Participation – which is suitable for inclusion in a portfolio. Credit, Distinction and High Distinction Certificates are also awarded to students that do well in the quiz. All science students (especially Year 7-10 Self Select Classes and Year 11 and 12 Chemistry classes) are encouraged to enter this competition and practice papers will be done in class to help the students prepare for this competition.

On the day of the Quiz – students will be notified of where to go and when to do the quiz. The quiz comprises of 30 multiple choice questions in 60 minutes. Students who obtain a perfect score of 30 will receive a Certificate of Excellence and a Plaque.

The age divisions are:
Years 7 & 8
Years 9 & 10
Years 11 & 12

Mr S Debrincat
Competition Coordinator
Head Teacher Science

Year 10 Forensic Science Incursion – Crime Scene Investigation

A Forensic Science – Crime Scene Investigation incursion was organised by Mr Debrincat for 47 Year 10 Science students on Friday 14 March 2014. It was held in the School Hall during Periods 1 and 2.

Students were initially debriefed on a crime that occurred (not a real crime) and were shown an image of the crime scene. They were then given the opportunity to examine and interpret evidence found at the crime scene to then compare to the control samples taken from the suspects. They then used their findings to slowly build a case against one of the suspects, whilst eliminating others from suspicion.
At the end of the activity, students were given the opportunity to dress up in Forensic Investigator Jumpsuits and lay in a body bag – creepy!!!

The facilitator (Allison – Crime Scene Officer) of today’s event was very impressed with our students at Mitchell High School. Apparently, at the most, 1 to 2 groups were ever able to solve the crime from the schools that she has presented to. But at MHS there were 5 groups that were able to solve the crime – well done guys!! – watching too much CSI probably had something to do with it??

The timing of this activity was crucial, as Year 10 students will be soon going through the process of subject selection for Year 11 (2015) and we wanted to provide the Science students at Mitchell High School with the opportunity to experience what it would be like to be a Forensic Scientist for a day and maybe encourage them to think about pursuing a future career in this area.

Mr Debrincat
Head Teacher Science

Science Encouragement Awards for Term 1 2014

For the first 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 Years 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 & 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 $10.00 and
  - All names will be announced at assembly and published in the Monthly School Newsletter.

The Recipients of the Science Encouragement Awards for Term 1 2014 are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>First Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8A</td>
<td>Mesanovic</td>
<td>Ines</td>
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<tr>
<td>8B</td>
<td>Tagir</td>
<td>Mohamed</td>
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<tr>
<td>8C</td>
<td>Guzman</td>
<td>Anna</td>
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<td>8D</td>
<td>Ferguson</td>
<td>Crystal</td>
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<tr>
<td>8E</td>
<td>Hanna</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
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<td>8F</td>
<td>Durmo</td>
<td>Margareta</td>
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<tr>
<td>8G</td>
<td>Timewell</td>
<td>Brandy</td>
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<th>Year 9</th>
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<tr>
<td>9A</td>
<td>Dervisevic</td>
<td>Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9B</td>
<td>McGuire</td>
<td>Amanda</td>
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<td>9C</td>
<td>O'Sullivan</td>
<td>Keely</td>
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<td>Webb</td>
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<tr>
<td>10A</td>
<td>Catacutan</td>
<td>Zerene</td>
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<tr>
<td>10B</td>
<td>Hikila</td>
<td>Shaneice</td>
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<tr>
<td>10C</td>
<td>Groupee</td>
<td>Zorkanah</td>
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<td>10D</td>
<td>Kromohardjo</td>
<td>Justin</td>
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<td>10E</td>
<td>Duxbury</td>
<td>Kya-Leigh</td>
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<tr>
<td>10F</td>
<td>Kumar</td>
<td>Somansh</td>
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<tr>
<td>10G</td>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>Kahlia</td>
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Just to add a little more excitement to this award, Ms Marinis has selected one recipient from each year group by placing all the Term 1 recipients into a hat and drawing a winner to receive a Hoyts Movie Ticket.

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<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Surname</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7Q</td>
<td>McIlwain</td>
<td>Jared</td>
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<tr>
<td>10A</td>
<td>Catacutan</td>
<td>Zerene</td>
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Congratulations to all recipients – from the Science Faculty. The Science teachers are now looking for new recipients for Term 2 2014…keep trying and good luck!

Mr Debrincat
Head Teacher Science

Sport

Term 2 2014 Sport Selections

Term 2 sports have been finalised. Students need to check the sport notice board for their sport. Students who have chosen a paid sport will receive a permission note to take home, this will need to be returned before they commence their chosen sport.

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 PDHPE staffroom by the end of Recess. These students will then go to the Library during sport time.

Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival 2014

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Mitchell High School Swimming.

Knockout Competitions

Congratulations to the following students who represented Blacktown Zone at the Sydney West Swimming championships on Monday 17 March. A huge thank you to all the student helpers who assisted in the running of the carnival.

Dolan, Isaac
Johnston, Tara
Atfield, Sarah
Bloomfield, Gavin
Hall, Hannah
Nguyen, Tatiana
Robertson, Laura

Sydney West Swimming

Congratulations to the boys Lawn Bowls team who won the Sydney West lawn Bowls Knockout on Friday 28 March 2014.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

There are currently openings in the Duke of Edinburgh program for any student in Year 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 PDHPE Staffroom.

Mrs S Maguire
Sports Coordinator
The Maths Report

The beginning of Term 2 will prove to be a busy week for many students. Year 7 and Year 9 students will be completing their NAPLAN exams, whereas the Half Yearly Exams will commence in week 2 for Years 9 and 10.

NAPLAN
National Assessment Program Literacy And Numeracy
The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy is a compulsory test for all Year 7 and Year 9 students. NAPLAN will be held in Term 2 Week 3. The numeracy test will consist of two sections:
1. Calculator
2. Non-calculator

The staff at Mitchell High School will be spending time in the classroom going through some calculator work in order to prepare for the NAPLAN. It is encouraged that all students of Year 7 and Year 9 have access to a calculator as soon as possible in order to master its operation.

Technology in the math classroom
Students are accessing technology in their mathematics classroom in different forms.

Year 11 General mathematics students are participating in the ASX share market game, The Real Deal as part of the Investing Money topic. Teams of students compete with each other by investing a pretend $50,000 to invest in real time on the Australian Stock Exchange. At the same time they are learning about the terms and processes used when investing money. The competition is Australia wide and successful teams can win prize money.

Each student from Years 7 to 12 has been registered for MyMaths and Years 11 and 12 have also been registered for MathsOnline. These sites are an excellent resource for students to revise and prepare for upcoming examinations. Year 7 has just completed the Term 1 Assessment Task using the MyMaths website.

Australian Mathematics Competition
The Australian Mathematics Competition is approaching. Entries close Thursday 8 May 2014 (Term 2, Week 2) and the test will take place in Term 3 Week 4.

The Australian Mathematics Competition 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 problems.

Students in the top classes are expected to enter (7J, 8M1, 8M2, 9M1, 9M2 and 10M1) as well as other interested students. The cost is $6.00 and needs to be paid to the office by the due date and the receipt is to be shown to their teacher.

Mitchell High School has a great tradition in this competition and has achieved excellent results in the past. Last year we had 136 students participate in the competition gaining some excellent results including 8 distinctions and 35 credits. All students who participate in the competition achieve a certificate of participation.

Ms Burness-Cowan
Head Teacher Mathematics
### GENERAL RESOURCE CONTRIBUTION (2014)

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### SUBJECT FEES (2014)

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<th>Subject</th>
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Mitchell High School is celebrating 50 Years of Education (1964-2014)

Take a trip down memory lane and join us in celebrating our Jubilee

When: Saturday 24th May 2014
Where: Mitchell High School
       Keyworth Drive Blacktown
Cost: $55.00 (non refundable)
Canapes: 6.00pm-7.00pm
Dinner: 7.00pm
RSVP: Friday 9th May 2014
Payment: Cash/EFTPOS/Cheque
         (Payable to Mitchell High School)
Bookings: Contact the school to secure your table
Memorabilia: Glass with school logo (included in price)
             Other memorabilia will be available
School Tours: 4.00pm, 4.30pm, 5.00pm

For more information contact the school on 9622 9944