It was with much sadness that we began this term with the passing of one of our teachers Mr Mark Thornton. Mr Thornton had been suffering from an illness for a long time and he succumbed to this over the holiday break. Mr Thornton touched all of our lives. He was a much loved husband and father and a great friend and colleague to many at Mitchell High School. He was a dedicated teacher and his love of teaching was a great passion in his life. Mr Thornton was a highly intelligent, sensitive man who connected with many people. He particularly loved teaching history and he led our debating teams with great enthusiasm. Even though he wasn’t well he continued to teach as it was such an important part of his life. He loved great food, travelled extensively and had a very close family. We will miss him greatly. The school is adding an additional perpetual prize to our Presentation Day Awards and this will be a memorial prize for a Junior Historian to commemorate the passion and the enthusiasm that Mr Thornton has shared with us.

Tanya Baghurst
Relieving Principal

Dates to Remember May/June

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 14 May / 11 June

Half Yearly Exams
Years 9 & 10 (5 – 16 May)

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

Year 11 & 12 Parent/Carer Teacher Interviews
Tuesday 20 May

Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
Monday 9 June

Last Day Term 2 2014
Friday 27 June

First Day Term 3 2014 (Students)
Tuesday 15 July
Deputy Principal’s Report

Success = commitment and hard work

We are now into Term 2 and The Deputies have been having meetings with students who have still a number of outstanding N-Award notifications. This reflects the poor commitment of some students to their studies. There have been numerous letters of concern sent prior to the generation of an N – Award warning letter. These assessment tasks and or practices must be completed to meet the course requirements. Teachers will give feedback for these late tasks so that students can improve their performance, however, they will not receive any marks for the assessment task towards their Preliminary and Higher School Certificate.

These notifications reflect poorly on those students who are working hard and striving to do their best. The effort of a large majority of students at this point in time is well above expectations and they are to be commended for their diligences and sustained effort. It is time for those students who are underperforming to make some changes. Students with outstanding work have been given contracts to complete the work within a short timeframe; Students have been asked to see their teachers to determine what is required to complete the assessment tasks listed in their contract. Students have been encouraged to seek assistance either by attending the Homework Centre or seeking the support through the Learning Centre. Students with poor Half Yearly results are meeting with the Deputy Principals. The Staff at Mitchell High School are very concerned; they want the students to achieve success.

Success especially in the HSC doesn’t occur through last minute preparation, it requires sustained commitment and hard work at school, in examinations, at home and in all aspects of assessment. The time has come for the class of 2014 to knuckle down and focus on their HSC, there is less than 2 terms of school to go and so much to be completed. Students in year 12 may have major works, portfolios, performance practice, revision for examinations and coursework to be completed.

So how does your child gain success? It is not something that is purchased, it doesn’t just happen, success can be determined by family, friends and the peer group, however, success can only be accurately determined by each individual in year 12. It is based on personal goals and expectations which may be realistic or in some cases unrealistic.

I have outlined some tips for success in the HSC below; some are specific to those students currently underachieving at Mitchell HS.

- Complete all outstanding work, get organized and complete all future tasks on time. Give yourself the chance of maximizing your school based assessment marks.
- Develop a life timetable - determine when you have blocks of time (2 hours) that can be committed to school work and revision. Ensure that you still have time to relax and do your favourite activities. You should be averaging at least 2 hours of study per day (Monday – Friday) and 3 hours per day on weekends.
- Have a space for study that is free from distractions – 2 hours of interruption free study is equal to 3 hours with distractions.
- Set goals for revision and what you want to achieve in the HSC and then break down your goals into workable and achievable minor goals.
- Study those areas that are difficult or that you are struggling with first.
- Use visual prompts, mind maps etc around your bedroom.
- Practice past papers, submit draft answers with your teachers, and create scaffolds for HSC answers.
- Know the key terms and how to specifically answer the key verb in each question.
- Get feedback from your teachers. The Staff at Mitchell are experienced and willing to assist you if you are prepared to do the work.
- You will appreciate your success more if you have made a commitment to your studies.

Success requires your child to be diligent and be focused on personal goals. It is important for your child to work consistently and work smarter rather than just doing the work. They should think about how to apply the information, use the HSC on-line websites and the BOS websites to assist their revision. Sacrifices may need to be made, casual work hours may need to be reduced. Short term financial losses may lead to long term prosperity with the right HSC mark. If your child makes the effort ensure they celebrate their success.

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure - Colin Powell

Elena Marinis
Deputy Principal
Relieving Deputy Principal's Report

Athletics Carnival
Monday saw a return of the Athletics Carnival (it’s been rained out for the past 2 years). We had perfect weather and a fantastic day with students participating across the range of events. It was particularly exciting to see some of the Mitchell HS records beaten in 4 different events. Adolph Koudakpo broke 3 records and Denaya Trikalliotis broke one for her age group. A very big thank-you to Mrs. Maguire for all her hard work and organisation. With such a great new undercover venue, it would be wonderful to see more students attend and participate. Parents are reminded that all our carnivals are compulsory school days and students do get a lot out of being there supporting their Houses and peers. It can be a fun, social day away from the norm of the classroom. Please continue to support the school by insisting your children attend these days.

School Uniform
Students have been reminded on assembly at various times that they are only allowed to wear the official Mitchell HS pants and shorts (boys and girls). These ones have a small MHS near the pockets to identify them as school uniform. Please support the school in ensuring your children are wearing the correct uniform. Shorts and shirts are not to be rolled up and no other jumpers/jackets are allowed at the school ever. Ms Marinis and myself now have a supply of winter sloppy joes in our offices and if a student wears the incorrect jumper they are to swap it over for the day and return it at the end of the day. These will then be washed and ready for the next student.

Homework Centre
The school is now offering extra assistance to all students on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon in the library for 1 hour. The Library is opened from 3.10 – 4.10pm each afternoon and is staffed for students to get assistance and support with homework, assignments, assessments or study. Students do not need to book in. They turn up and sign in and out and are given a card signed by the teacher to show to parents. Please encourage your children to make use of this Homework centre to help improve their grades and efforts in their subjects.

Parent-teacher Interviews
A reminder that Year 11 and 12 Parent-Teacher evening is on next Tuesday 20th May in the Hall. This is a great opportunity to get some feedback on how students are coping and performing in their senior studies.

Years 9-10 Parent-teacher night is on the 24th June and bookings will be trialled online this year. More information to follow. Year 7/8 night is the 29th July and again we will be doing online bookings for this one.

Mrs. L.Pares
Relieving Deputy Principal

50th Anniversary Time Capsule

- The 50th Anniversary Committee is organising a time-capsule as part of the school’s 50th Anniversary Celebration.
- A time capsule is like a snapshot of what life is like now in 2014 for people to see say in 50 years time.
- It is a collection of items stored in a sealed container, buried in the ground to be opened at a later date.
- If you have any items from this year and/or from past years to add to the capsule, can you please hand the item in to Mr Debrincat – in the Science Staffroom.
- Items could include:
  - student photos from excursions, carnivals and in-school activities
  - photocopies or photos of student work
  - poems and short stories
  - short video recordings of your experience at MHS
  - current movies and music
  - the type of fashion that you are in to
  - copies of magazines and newspapers etc.
- You could either provide such items as hard copies or soft copies on USB or disc.
- Don’t forget to add information like your name, class and year that the item came from.

Thank you
Mr Debrincat
Sports 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.

2014 Blacktown Zone Cross Country Carnival

Congratulations to the following student who represented Mitchell HS with distinction at the Blacktown Zone Cross Country Carnival on Friday 9th May. There were many top performances on the day.

Ala Abdelrahman
Jordan Ashby-Brigandi
Olivia Atfield
Elizabeth Atfield
Anthony Berari
Gavin Bloomfield
Courtney Buttigieg
Eden Carter
Alex Cetinic
Denise Clemente
Jamie-Lee Cole
Bailey Cooper
Emily Cornish
Marcus Correia
Mariah Correia
Sinead Davidson
Aising Davidson
Alissa Dervisevic
Dean Dervisevic
Patricia Dionisio
Isaac Dolan
Nenad Dragic
Caryn Fagan
Samantha Faller
Ryan Francis
Ivan Gomes

Madison Graham
Mohamed Halawi
Jackson Hinchey
Kaitlyn Hulley
Aaron Hulley
George Jayshah
Porsha Jammal
Aaron Kalkhoven
Erik Kalkhoven
Fomba Kamara
Nihal Khurshid
Justina Kollie
Jeevan Jot Kullar
Cindy Li
Rikki Libunao
Christopher Lisle
Sophie Mayor
Taryn Moller
Calissa Nguyen
Tatiana Nguyen
Alazae Norman
Daniel Oo
Ryverashlie Overton
Shaun Patten
Chloe Pollard
Tahmid Rahman
Arbaaz Singh
Caitlin Stopford
Liam Strickland
Kenya Tipene
Celina Tran
Deyana Trikaliotis
Piper White
Ke Zhao

Mitchell High School Athletics Carnival

The Mitchell High School Athletics carnival was held on Monday 12th of May out at the Blacktown International Sportspark. It was fantastic to see students dressed up in their house colours and actively participating in as many events as they could.

The winning house for 2014 was Mirabooka.

The Age champions for 2014 are:

Boys
12 Shaun Patten
13 Ethan Casaje
14 Nihal Khurshid
15 Adolph Koudakpo
16 Nathan Hamilton
17 Aaron Hulley
Girls
12  Tinkya Tattersall
13  Sinead Davidson
14  Celina Tran
15  Deyana Trikialiotis
16  Jordan Ashby-Brigandi
17  Eden Carter

There were a number of records broken on the day

Rhey Junio  12yrs Boys 100m
Shaun Patten  12yrs Boys 400m
Nathan Hamilton  16yrs Boys 400m
Deyana Trikialiotis  15yrs Girls 200m
  15yrs Girls Long Jump
Kaitlyn Hulley  15yrs Girls 400m
  15yrs Girls High Jump
Aisling Davidson  15yrs Girls 800m
Adolph Koudakpo  14yrs Boys Long Jump
Mariah Correia  14yrs Girls High Jump

The Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival is on Thursday 29th May and Friday 30th May 2014. Students who have been selected to represent Mitchell High School at this carnival will receive a permission note this week.

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 Coordinator

Super 6 Passport Challenge

As one of our literacy initiatives, Mitchell High School is implementing the Super 6: a set of strategies to support students’ reading comprehension.

To engage students in this initiative, Years 7 and 8 have been set a challenge. Each student has been given a Super 6 Passport which has a place for a stamp from 6 different subjects. In each of these subjects, students will have the chance to complete a challenge relating to one of the Super 6 skills, and will have their passport stamped and signed if they are successful.

Passports are due in Week 8 (June 20th) and students will receive Vivo points for their completed challenges. 8 Vivos are awarded for 2 stamps, 16 Vivos for 4 stamps and 24 Vivos and a raffle draw for 6 stamps.

We hope that students will enjoy the challenge while benefitting from this focus on their literacy skills.

J. Starink
Head Teacher, Teaching & Learning

NAPLAN & PISA TESTING

Years 7 and 9 sat the NAPLAN tests in Week 3 of this term. Results will be available by September and will provide an additional snapshot of student literacy and numeracy skills to supplement school-based assessments.

Mitchell High School has also been randomly selected to participate in PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) testing this year. This will mean that in mid-June, a random sample of 50 students aged 15 will sit tests in reading, mathematics and science. Students will be bringing information home soon if they have been selected to participate.

The PISA tests are run by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and are used to compare education systems in around 70 different countries.

J. Starink
Head Teacher, Teaching & Learning
Photos from the Mitchell High School Athletics Carnival
COMMEMORATIVE PATH

Dear Parents / Carers

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations we would like to construct a commemorative pathway made of individualised pavers to feature in the Rose Garden area. The pavers can be purchased for $25 each and can be individualised in two styles. You may choose a printed format with a maximum of 17 characters (including spaces) on each line to a maximum of 3 lines. You must complete the form in capital letters. The second option is a hand written, hand drawn paver. The drawing must be simple and you need to follow the instructions regarding the pen type and use the size template provided. Your paver could commemorate an individual past or present student, or a family connected with the school currently or in the past.

All orders need to be placed and paid for by Friday 20 June 2014. Order forms are to be given to Mrs Mahony in the English Staff Room and payment is to be made to the Front Office. All orders will be checked by Mrs Mahony prior to the order being placed, however, it is essential that all writing is clear and conforms to the requirements of the paving company.

We are very excited about this initiative which will become a part of the history of our school. We look forward to your involvement. If you require any further information, please contact Mrs Mahony on 9662 9944.

Regards

Tanya Baghurst
Relieving Principal
9 May 2014
Attention Yr 11 Science Students @ MHS

- Are you in Yr11 and studying a Science Subject?
- Are you interested in attending an overseas Excursion to NZ for 7 days?
- Then see Mr Debrincat in Science to collect an EOI (Expression of Interest) before the end of Week 6 T2.
- The Excursion will cost approximately $2800 and will take place in the first week of the Easter School holidays (Sun 5th April – Sat 11th April 2015).

Don’t miss out!
Parent or Guardian Information & Expression of Interest Form

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the resounding success of our previous HSC NZ Science Tours, we are pleased to advise that Mitchell High School will be conducting an International Links excursion for Year 11 & 12 HSC Science students to New Zealand during the school holidays from the 5th – 11th April, 2015. A detailed itinerary has been developed and will be supplied upon confirmation of attendance. The students will arrive in Auckland and tour through the central area of New Zealand’s North Island to Mt Ruapehu, Waitomo Caves, Tongariro National Park and various locales in the Rotorua region.

Students will see first hand with the guidance of experienced teachers and expert support staff significant scientific, cultural, geographic, historical and political sights to support not only Stage 6 curricula in all HSC Sciences, but also outcomes form the Visual Arts, History, Geography, Food Technology, Society and Culture and PDH/PE syllabi.

Students will attend several study sessions incorporating lectures and hands-on, interactive and practical activities at various locations including Mt Tarawera Volcanic Crater, Rotorua Museum, Hells Gate, Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland, Rainbow Springs Kiwi Encounter, Volcanic Activity Centre and Waimangu Volcanic Valley. To complement these educational experiences, students will have the opportunity to partake in exciting leisure and adventure activities (‘study rewards’) including Skyline Skyrides, Agrodome, Polynesian Spa, Whakarewarewa Thermal Village, Agro Centre, Oh Road NZ (BC), Waiwera Spa Pools, Tamaki Maori Village and expert guided trekking through volcanic landscapes and associated lava flows, craters and glacial structures.

Where: New Zealand’s North Island, Taupo Region
Departing: Sydney Airport on 5th April 2015
Returning: Sydney Airport on 11th April 2015
Cost: $2800
Accommodation: Students will be staying in quality hotels in share accommodation.
Travel: Students will travel with Air New Zealand and luxury coaches.
Supervision: The group will be accompanied throughout their trip by Mr. Debrinicat and additional staff depending on student numbers (approx 1 staff member per 9 students).
Water Activities: The excursion may involve water or swimming activities.
Behaviour: The group will be ambassadors for their school and their country while on the excursion. The highest standard of behaviour will be expected at all times. Students who bring disrepute upon themselves will have their parents contacted and may be requested to return to Australia. At all times the students will be expected to follow all directions set by the accompanying teachers.

Depending on the level of Interest, an Information Evening for parents/guardians will be held in the Staff Common Room (Wednesday 11th June at 5.30pm sharp). In the interim, if you have any concerns or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Debrinicat at the school on 9622 9944.
Please return the attached Expression of Interest by 10th June 2014.

Parent or Guardian Expression of Interest Form

2th May 2014

A Notice of intention to plan an overseas excursion for this trip has been approved by the Principal, Mrs Baghurst and the School Education Director.

To enable continued planning of this overseas trip, Mitchell High School requests that parents/guardians of interested students complete and return this Expression of Interest form to the Science Faculty by 10th June 2014.

I hereby register my Expression of Interest for my son/daughter/ward

_____________________________ of Roll Class ________________

to attend the Mitchell High School HSC Science New Zealand Trip 2015.

Name __________________ Signature ________________ Date _______

Address ________________________________________________

Ph ___________________ MOB ______________________________

Email __________________________________________________

Mrs T Baghurst Mr S Debrincat
Relieving Principal HT Science & Tour Co-ordinator

MW0511
Important Information

Parent/Carer Teacher Interviews
Years 11 & 12 (3.30pm - 7.30pm)
Tuesday 20th May 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

We have pleasure in inviting you to attend our Parent Teacher Interviews for Year 11 & 12. The date for this occasion is Tuesday 20th May 2014. Half Yearly Reports will be available for collection before the interviews for parent/carer(s) who attend the interviews. Interviews will take place in our school hall.

Attached to this sheet is a booking form. Students will need to book a time with each teacher for an interview. To ensure that all parent/carer(s) have the opportunity to meet and discuss students’ progress, could you please limit your interviews to five minutes.

See the following arrangements for Parent/Carer Teacher Interviews:

- Interviews will be by appointment only. Parent/carer(s) have requested this method rather than waiting in queues.

- Students may make the appointments for their parent/carer(s). This will be done by students in lessons, with teachers noting the appointments on both the parent/carer’s and teacher’s appointment sheets. Appointments will be on a first in, first served basis.

- Each student is responsible for negotiating between parent/carer(s) and teachers and for retaining the appointment sheet to take home to parent/carer(s).

- Parent/carer(s) and teachers are requested to keep strictly to the appointed times for interviews. Gaps should be left between each appointment to ensure parent/care(s) have sufficient time to reach their next interview.

- Year Advisers will need all their time for interviews as subject teachers. Parent/Carer(s) who wish to have a general interview with a Year Adviser can make an appointment, at another time, by contacting the school on the below number.

If you are unable to attend the Parent/Carer Teacher Interviews or are unable to make the booking you seek, we invite you to ring the school to make an alternative appointment.

More information turn page

Relieving Principal: Mrs T Baghurst
Deputy Principal: Ms E Marinis
Relieving Deputy Principal: Mrs L Pares
Address: Keyworth Drive Blacktown 2148
Telephone: 9622 9944 / 9622 8926
Fax: 9831 2805
Email Address: mitchell-h.school@det.nsw.edu
Website: www.mitchell-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
PLEASE NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SCHOOL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE PARENT/CARER TEACHER INTERVIEWS.

To ensure the success of Parent/Carer Teacher Interviews, we ask parent/carer(s) to:

- make sure that your son/daughter brings the appointment sheet to school to start making appointments for teacher interviews.
- ensure the interview sheet is brought with you to appointments arranged by teachers.

If you cannot attend the Parent/Carer Teacher Interviews, you will need to provide your son/daughter with a parental signed letter, enabling them to collect their Half Yearly Report on your behalf from the administration office the next day.

The staff of Mitchell High School look forward to meeting parent/carer(s) and discussing their son/daughters progress.

Regards

Mrs T Baghurst
Relieving Principal
Blacktown City Council

Wednesday 28 May 3:30pm
BLACKTOWN SHOWGROUND, RICHMOND ROAD, BLACKTOWN

SPORTS IN THE PARK
IT’S YOUR GAME

DO YOU LOVE THE OUTDOORS? DO YOU LIKE TO GET ACTIVE? ARE YOU A THRILL SEEKER?
IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ONE OF THE ABOVE, THAN THIS EVENT IS FOR YOU.

Come along to the first ever Sports in The Park event which will feature BMX, skateboarding & scooter demonstrations by Big Air School. Learn how to do stunts on your bike, skateboard & scooter by the pro’s.

SPORTING CLINIC’S THROUGHOUT THE DAY INCLUDE
• LITTLE KICKERS
• BLUE SOX
• ADDVENTAGEOUS – Bike and helmet safety checks
• NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE

LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN
THIS EVENT WILL ALSO FEATURE, LIVE SCREENING OF THE STATE OF ORIGIN GAME 1 ON THE BIG SCREEN FROM 7PM
COME ALONG DRESSED IN EITHER MAROON OR BLUE AND SUPPORT YOUR STATE

@blacktowncc | I Love Blacktown | 9839 6800 | www.festival.blacktown.nsw.gov.au | Weather Hotline 9839 6977

Mitchell High School
Respectful, Engaged & Active Learners