



Roma Mitchell
Secondary College



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*Shaping a better
future locally and
globally*

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Principal's report

It is with much pleasure I welcome all new students and families to the Roma Mitchell Secondary College community. Our enrolments have continued to grow and we are now at near capacity across the three campuses with 1,265 enrolments.

It was wonderful to meet with the families at our Year 8 and Special Education Acquaintance Night which was held last week. Thank you for coming along.

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of our school community events held this term such as one of the Sports Days, Gifted and Talented Information Evening or the Annual General Meeting.

100% SACE Achievement for the 2014 Year 12 Students

Every year our SACE completion rate improves and this year we are proud to announce that 100% of our 2014 Year 12 students across the three campuses successfully achieved their SACE, with many more of our students receiving an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) score in the high 90's.

Congratulations to Cecilia Newell who will be awarded the 2014 Dux of the School for achieving the top raw ATAR score of 93.9 and a final ATAR score of 99.85 with bonus points. She intends to study a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) at UniSA.

Congratulations to Reza Ali Bakhsh who has won the Adelaide University Principal's Scholarship. He intends to study a Bachelor of Commerce at Adelaide University.

Over 80 University and TAFE offers were made to our students, such as Law, Engineering, Medical Sciences, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Commerce, Architectural Design, Finance, Health Sciences, Teaching, Nursing, Human Movement, Justice, Business, Information Technology, Design, Arts, Nutrition, Science, Computer Science.

We congratulate all of our Year 12 students for achieving their SACE and being accepted into University, TAFE, and an Apprenticeship, a Traineeship, employment or a community program. Our school community wishes our graduates every success in their chosen pathway.

This week, the Class of 2014 have been invited to attend an Old Scholars BBQ to celebrate their achievements.

New Teaching Staff

We welcome to our school the following new teaching staff:

Co-Education and Girls' Education Campuses

Adele Arnese	Italian
Phillipa Arnold	Science and Maths
Megan Butterick	PE & Outdoor Education
Tim Davey	Physical Education
Peter Evans	Librarian
Daniel Frangos	Science and Maths
Stephanie Graham	Art and Media Studies
Julie Mohtasham	English
Rosemary Rocca	Home Economics
Tiffany Stephenson	Science and Maths
Theo Tsiounis	PE and Specialist Soccer
Kym Willis	English and Humanities

Special Education Campus

Stephanie Graham	Art
Len Spence	Middle Years

Teacher Leader Appointments

Congratulations to the following staff who are newly appointed as teacher leaders:

Sports Coordinator	Phil Hernes
House Coordinator	Megan Butterick

Governing Council

The current membership of the Governing Council is as follows:

Di Lomas	Chairperson	Parent
Brenton Hedger	Deputy Chairperson	Parent
Geraldine Barclay	Secretary	Parent
Diane Newell	Treasurer	Parent
Rick Coombes		Parent
Sue Ferguson		Parent
Donna Henry		Parent
Finola Harrington		Parent
Faye Webster		Parent
Guy Wilcock		Community
Adrian Simmons	Staff (Co-Education Campus)	
Veena Madan	Staff (Girls' Education Campus)	
Wendy Williams	Staff (Special Education Campus)	

Annual General Meeting

All families and members of the school community are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting which will be held at the school on Wednesday March 25 at 6.30pm. A copy of the agenda and a nomination form for parents to nominate as a representative of the Governing Council is included in this Newsletter. There will be five parent vacancies for the 2015 Governing Council. The first Governing Council Meeting will be held immediately following the AGM.

Pupil Free Days and School Closure Day

At the recent meeting, the Governing Council approved the following dates for the four Pupil Free Days and School Closure Day:

Pupil Free Days

Term 2	Friday Week 4, 22 May
	Monday Week 9, 22 June
Term 3	Friday Week 7, 4 September
Term 4	Monday Week 6, 16 November

School Closure Day

Term 3	Monday Week 8, 7 September
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International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP)

This year we have officially commenced delivering the IB MYP in Years 8 and 9. In 2016, we will deliver the IB MYP to Years 8, 9 and 10. In semester 2 this year our Year 9's will commence their Personal Project.

Before School and After School Yard Supervision

I would like to remind families that our school yard is supervised from 8:30 – 8:45am each day. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays supervision is provided after school from 3:15 - 3:30pm and on Wednesdays from 2:25 – 2:40pm.

Sandy Richardson
Principal

Curriculum Report

Our Parent Curriculum Committee has been meeting over the past year, twice a term, on a Thursday evening. This group have been highly significant in giving feedback and making suggestions about a range of curriculum issues, including Special Education, SACE Support for parents and students, our Middle Years International Baccalaureate Programme, Aboriginal Perspectives across the curriculum and Languages other than English. They have and will continue to give us feedback on school policies related to learning.

This year we have decided to include some interested students on our Curriculum Committee and to facilitate this we are moving the meeting time to 9am on a weekday morning to be decided. If you are interested in attending these meetings this year, please let me know. If you cannot attend but would like to give feedback on any school issue please feel free to contact me at any time on 81614600.

Mid-term Snapshot Grades for Year 8 to 12 students in the Co-Educational and Girls' Campus

On Wednesday afternoon in week 6, 4th March our teachers will be reviewing the work done by their students so far this term. They will assign a grade for each student based on work done so far. This is not a predicted grade, but is a quick snapshot of what students have achieved so far this term. These mid-term grades will be sent home to parents the following week and shared and discussed with students in week 7.

The purpose of these snapshot grades is to give students and parents a clearer indication of how students are progressing, while there is still time to complete work and improve the final term grade. You will receive a more detailed end of term report at the end of the term.

Your Tutor

Due to popular demand, the school will be funding the Your Tutor online tutorial system again this year. Students in all year levels can access help in any subject from a trained teacher between 3 and 10 pm Sunday to Friday.

Students can begin to log on within the next couple of weeks. They will receive information in Care Groups.

We are also offering after school homework help on Monday and Thursday afternoons between 3.30-4.30pm.

If you have any queries or concerns about any aspect of your son or daughter's progress at our school please ring me on 81614600.

Karen Fitzpatrick
Deputy Principal

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education

We would like to welcome Rosina to our team as an ASETO this year and welcome back Jamahl, Niwili and Angela. We would also like to welcome our 15 Year 8 students to RMSC along with new students in Years 9, 10 and 11 and wish them all a successful year at secondary school.

Tutoring support will continue this year with Niwili and Angela. Currently students' Individual Learning Plans are being updated and communication with students, families, Care Group and subject teachers is a real focus. This is also assisting with allocating tutoring support for students.

The homework centre will continue again this year on Mondays and Thursdays and we would like to encourage students to come along on these days when our tutors will be able to provide support.

Last week the SAASTA (South Australian Sports Training Academy) program began for 2015 for Years 10, 11 and 12 students. Individual interviews were held with interested students to determine their ability to join the program. All twelve students were successful in their interviews and will now travel to UniSA Mawson Lakes each Thursday.

A special congratulations to Year 10 student, Tayla Haining for winning an Arts Internship through the AIME program at the end of 2014 in an Art competition and Tayla's design was selected. Tayla will be doing her internship at UniSA Mawson Lakes with the support of a practicing visual artist and the CEO of AIME. Her work will be used for promoting the AIME program nationally. An exciting opportunity and fantastic achievement!!

Friday the 13th of February marked the 7th anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations by the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. You can find more information on the National Sorry Day website including educational resources: <http://www.nsd.org.au>

Staff and students can also find a display in the library that acknowledges the anniversary.

"The Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples was delivered by then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on February 13, 2008, and acknowledged in particular the Stolen Generations. We encouraged everyone to engage in events that mark the

Anniversary of the Apology. For Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, this date holds deep meaning." (From the National Sorry Day Committee website)

Sarah Afshin Pour
Aboriginal Education Coordinator

Special Education

I would like to welcome back all of our students as we look forward to another year of learning. In 2015 we will continue to strive to offer quality learning opportunities for all our students and these will be delivered through quality teaching, curriculum development and improvements in our learning environment. Our initial focus during this term will be on launching our enhanced Mathematics program, introducing a guided reading program, enhancing our PECS provision and developing our library space.

To the families and caregivers of our 12 new students we would like to extend a warm welcome. All of our teachers and SSOs are looking forward to working with you to secure successful learning outcomes for your child. We are also looking forward to continuing to build upon the strong links with our existing families and caregivers as we support every child on their journey. NEP meetings are already underway and I would like to thank all parents/caregivers for their contribution to these meetings and their support of the agreed goals.

In regards to staffing I am pleased to welcome back a host of familiar faces who have already impacted significantly upon the teaching and learning of our students over the previous years. In addition to this we welcome two new teachers who are excited about the prospect of working in our caring and supportive learning environment. They are:

Ms Stephanie Graham - Art
Mr Len Spence – Middle Years

The launch of the Daymap portal now gives us the option of communicating with our community electronically or through the more traditional diary/communication book format. We will continue to discuss these developments with caregivers throughout the year as we seek to fully utilise the technology at our disposal. We will endeavour to improve our communication through this enhanced provision which we

regard as integral to our home/school partnership. This communication will continue to include daily information on the achievements and engagement of your child as well as class notices. We encourage all caregivers to read the diary/entries each night and inform us of the day to day happenings in their child's life so we can continue to foster strong and purposeful relationships.

Transport arrangements are always high on the agenda at the start of our year. Therefore I would like to take the opportunity to request your assistance in ensuring that the taxi journeys to and from school are both incident and stress free. In order to achieve this it helps if you:

Notify the driver in advance if your child is not attending on a given day.

- Ensure your child is ready on time.
- Escort your child to the car and ensure they are both seated and belted.
- Ensure that somebody is always home to greet you child.

I would also like to remind parents/caregivers that any requests to change routes to and from school have to be approved by DECD Transport. We will of course assist you with this approval should you require changes in collection and drop-off arrangements.

Andrew Gilsenan-Reed
Head of Special Education Campus

Girls' Campus

This year has started off very well and the weather has been very favourable for a return to school. All the girls including the new students have settled in to their routines very quickly.

Thanks to all family members who were able to attend the year 8 acquaintance evening. The year 8 Care Group teachers, Ms McCormack, Ms Stephenson and Ms Gill were very pleased to spend time with so many parents and family members of our year 8 students.

Any family members of our students who want information about school and their daughter's day to day routines please contact your daughter's Care Group teacher or year level leader.

Welcome back also to all our other year levels and some old and new staff members. All students have arrived back refreshed and enthusiastic and it is good to see the year 12s picking up their course work so quickly. All the year 12 students are already using their study line sessions effectively.

There are a range of exciting events coming up for us this term: The Girls' Campus Sports Day is on the Wednesday the 25th of February and will be held at the school. Family members are welcome to attend on the day to support their daughters and teams.

SRC elections have also been conducted this week so we look forward to working with a new group of students representing all year levels and campuses.

International Women's Day celebrations will take place during early March to coincide with International Women's Day on Sunday the 8th of March. A group of senior students will also again attend the International Women's day Breakfast at the Convention Centre on Friday the 6th of March.

The language classes for Arabic, Hindi and Persian are already running in the library from 3.30 until 6.00 pm on Tuesdays and Vietnamese is at the same time on Thursdays. If you are interested in finding out more about the courses please contact me at the school

Please contact any members of staff in the Girls' Campus if you have any further queries about any of the activities coming up and please keep checking your Daymap through the Parent Portal for information that directly relates to your daughter.

The new year level leaders for 2015 are important contacts if you are unable to reach your daughter's care group teacher. In year 8 the leader is Mr Hung Doan and in year 9 the leaders are Ms Sarah Afshin Pour and Ms Cathryn Pearce. In year 10 the leader is Ms Helen Nielsen, in year 11 it is Ms Karen Fitzpatrick and in year 12 it is Ms Judith Clelland.

Ms Anika Weifen is also taking a year level leadership role across all year 10s, 11s and 12s this year.

Judith Clelland
Head of Girls' Campus

Co-Education Middle Years Campus

The co-education middle school has had a fantastic start to the year. There has been a clear focus on 'learning activities' in classrooms and new Year 8 students familiarising themselves with our expectations. Whilst some students are awaiting back orders for the uniform items they have ordered most students are attired correctly and look great. We will continue to have a focus on supporting all students to have black leather lace-up shoes and girls to have their skirt lengths just below the knee. Students will all have their laptop computer and be able to access first class technology at our school.

Throughout the first term there will be a lot of new learning experiences for our new students who have just taken part in the SRC elections, participated in their first House Meeting, will be an audience member in our whole school assembly, participate in our school Sports Day and engage in many more exciting activities.

It was pleasing to see so many parents at our Acquaintance Evening. Parents enjoyed the BBQ first, were addressed briefly by myself and then met with their students Care Group teachers where they received information on a large number of topics. Many questions were answered and we encourage parents who have any questions to please contact initially their Care Group teachers who will refer it on if they cannot answer the query suitably.

At present we are also busy visiting 25 feeder primary schools advertising our school and Special Entry Programs in preparation for our school Open Day on Wednesday March 11th. Please remember to remind students that whilst we get out early each Wednesday for staff to work together until 5.00pm our local primary schools don't. Hence, whilst it may be a nice thought to visit them remember that they are still busy teaching their classes. Therefore, we are encouraging our students to stay away until the end of their school day.

I look forward to the opportunity to bring you lots of the good things that are happening in the middle school throughout the year.

Darryl Ashby
Head of Co-Education Middle Years Campus

Co-Education: Senior Years

We have had a positive start to the year. Students have settled really well into the new school year and approaching their studies confidently.

Staff and students commenced the year by celebrating the successful student results achieved in 2014, including 100% SACE Completion. In the first round of offers students were accepted into University Courses for Architectural Design, Business, Engineering, Health Sciences, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Nursing, Law, Medical Science, Arts, Teaching, Foundation Studies and Certificate courses in TAFE for Construction Building, Dental Assisting, Hospitality, Commercial Cookery, Information Technology, Mental Health, Tourism

Key strategies and skills to support success
 Our weekly pastoral care sessions allow students to work with their care group teacher to consolidate learning. Care group teachers and year level leaders/managers have discussed with students key strategies and skills to support success including:

Attendance

Regular attendance is important for students to gain the best possible benefits from education. Missing lessons create gaps in learning that places additional pressure on the students and their teachers.

Homework

Regular homework will be set, monitored and assessed by teachers. Homework allows students to review lesson work and build on the skills taught.

Completion of work

Completing assignments set by teachers, within the timelines negotiated, is essential for students to achieve success. When students hand in draft assignments it provides the opportunity for students to receive feedback, review concepts and improve learning.

Parent Communication

Care group teachers are contacting parents/carers to introduce themselves, explain their role and discuss upcoming year level events and any other issues. Care group teachers are also providing information about using the Parent Portal called Daymap Connect where you are given access to your child's timetable, homework and electronic diary. Information

outlining instructions to access to your child's timetable, homework and electronic diary. If you did not receive this information or cannot access Daymap at home please do not hesitate to contact the school on 81614600.

First point of contact – Care group teachers

Second point of contact – Year Level Leader/Year Level Manager

Third point of contact – Head of Campus Pepe Bouzalas

Year 10

Year Level Leaders/Managers

Year 10CA, 10CF Stammy Overell

Year 10CE, 10CD Sean Venning

Year 10CB, 10CC Anita Healy

Care group teachers

10CA Patricia Leslie

10CB Melissa Weinert

10CC Ina Nur/Chloe Lyons/Adele Shannon

10CD Shannon Breuer

10CE Shane Dalziel

10CF Russell McLean

Year 11

Year Level Leaders/Managers

Year 11CA, 11CB Delia Krmarov

Year 11CE, 11CF Adam Carter

Year 11CC, 11CD Julie Mohtasham

Care group teachers

11CA Ross Lane/Richard Keating

11CB Theo Tsiounis/Gennaro Polvere

11CC Young Kim/Daniel Frangos

11CD Dave Gomer/Egilda Colaruotolo

11CE Stefana Petrov

11CE Stefana Petrov

11CF Derek Duke

Year 12

Year Level Leaders/Managers

Year 12CA, 12CD Pepe Bouzalas

Year 12CB, 12CC Louise Mather

Care group teachers

12CA Amanda Pedder

12CB Jennifer Theakstone/John Anusz

12CC Rebecca Vegter

12CD Sedat Arkun

Pepe Bouzalas

Head of Campus Senior Years

Specialist Football Programme

"Developing fine young men and women"



Alison Atkins and Jake Giannini

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an insight into the 2015 Specialist Football Program. The program caters for both boys and girls and runs from years 8-12. It provides students with the opportunity to pursue pathways in Football and in tertiary studies. Furthermore, the program strives to develop students who are role models in the school community in regards to sporting and academic excellence, leadership and respect.

One of the program's goals is to utilise and further develop relationships with local sporting organisations. This integration of knowledge is supported by Specialist Football student Alison Atkins who stated "The Specialist Football Program has helped me develop my knowledge and learn skills that I can apply in the real world".

More recent developments include formalising and strengthening our relationship with the local National Premier League club the Adelaide Raiders, which has the potential to increase player development and playing opportunities for our students.

Any student enrolled in the school interested in joining the Specialist Football Program will be welcomed to attend trials that will be held in regular intervals throughout the course of the school year. Trial dates and information will be advertised through the school bulletin and newsletter.

Information regarding the program can be accessed on the school website. If you have any specific questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Football
Theo Tsiounis

Sports Day

The 2015 RMSC Sports Days will be held on Wednesday 25th February for the Girls' Education Campus and Thursday 26th for the Co-Education and Special Education Campuses. Students need to arrive at 8:30am ready for the 8:45am start and will be dismissed at the normal time at the end of the day.

Both events promise to be fun filled and exciting. We have had house meetings and we have nearly finished selecting our house captains for 2015. We have also been doing Athletics in Health and PE and having practice at lunchtimes. On the big day students rotate around ten different activities throughout the day, some are traditional athletics events like 100m and high jump while others are tabloid sports like tug of war, tunnel ball and this year for the first time we will have a climbing wall. After lunch we will have 100-metre championship races, 4x100 metre relays and if time permits students versus staff relays.

At the end of the day, we will be awarding medals to the best athlete in each year level and presenting the shield to the winning house captains.

Water will be provided on the oval and the canteen will be open at recess and lunch.

Sunblock will also be provided, however please encourage students to be sun smart by wearing a hat, sunglasses and put on sun block before they leave in the morning. They should also bring a water bottle.

Parents are invited to come along. A letter will be posted home which contains more details.

Year 12 students in the Girls' Education and Co-Education Campuses are given the option to attend the relevant Sports Day or study lessons in their building. No new work will be introduced to the students on these days.

Adam Carter
Senior Leader HPE

South Korean Visitors

During the first two weeks of this term we were visited by Young Cho and Yu Kim, two undergraduate students from the Ajou University in South Korea. They were part of a larger group of tertiary students who were given the opportunity to visit several South Australian schools and observe our classes to see how the education system here differs from that in their country.

In addition to viewing a range of subjects, they also presented talks to several of our middle school classes about life in their home city, with some great pictures of their local scenery.

At a small farewell lunch, the two of them spoke about how friendly they had found the students and staff here at Roma Mitchell to be, and how envious they were of the ease and openness of communication between our students and teachers.

Sean Venning
Senior Leader
Timetabling,
Human Resources and
International Programmes



Finance

2015 Materials and Services Fees are now due. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, credit card, eftpos or direct debit.

If you would like to arrange direct debit payments or payments by instalments please contact the Finance Manager on 8161 4600.

School card 2015

Parents/Caregivers are reminded that a new school card application must be submitted every year. Forms are available at Student Services. Please contact Student Services on 8161 4644 if you require any information regarding eligibility or assistance with completing the application.

Laptops

Friendly reminder, the first laptop instalment payment for 2015 is due to be paid by 26th February.

Carmel Hall
Finance Manager

Fringe Performance: Partners in Dance

Sessions

Sunday 22 Feb	1:30pm	60min
Sunday 22 Feb	3:30pm	60min
Sunday 22 Feb	5:30pm	60min
Monday 23 Feb	10:00am	60min
Monday 23 Feb	12:00pm	60min
Monday 23 Feb	1:30pm	60min

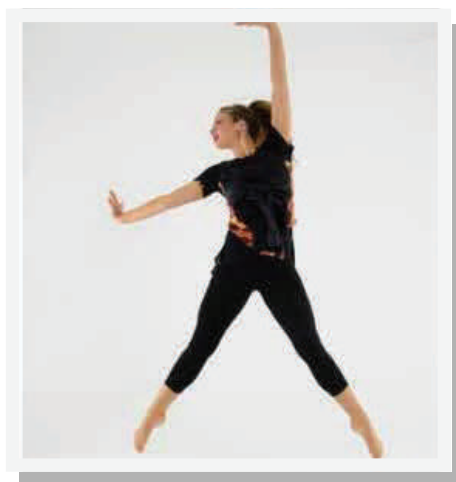
Venue

Salisbury Secret Garden – St Jays Recreation Centre
15 Brown Terrace, Salisbury

Cost (for audience members)

All Tickets \$8:00 (no concession)

Go to www.adelaidefringe.com.au
Follow the links: Programs, dance, page 4 of the guide.



Contact Information

The school office is open between 8.30am and 4.00pm each school day. Our friendly staff will help you with any questions or queries.

Principal: Sandy Richardson

Phone: 08 8161 4600

Fax: 08 8161 4650

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Gepps Cross SA 5094

Postal Address:

Briens Road
Gepps Cross SA 5094

Region: Northern Regional Office

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development