Principal’s Report

A very successful parent workshop was held for the parents of the students enrolled in the gifted and talented classes. Parents were provided with information about the curriculum and met with their child’s teachers. If you were unable to attend but would like a copy of the presentation please contact Noel Hernes, Senior Leader.

Our Open Night was held much earlier this year and we were delighted with the number of families who joined us to see our school in action. Principal’s Tours of each campus will be held during terms 2 and 3 for those families who were unable to come along on the night. Information about these tours is on our website.

Governing Council

Thank you to all the families and staff who attended our Annual General Meeting held recently. At the AGM the 2015 Strategic Plan and the 2014 Annual Report was presented to the community. Copies are available on the school website. All parent vacancies on the Governing Council were filled and elections for office bearers were held at the Governing
Council Meeting following the AGM. Congratulations to the elected parents and office bearers.

The 2015 Governing Council is as follows:

- Di Lomas  Chairperson
- Brenton Hedger  Deputy Chairperson
- Dianne Newell  Treasurer
- Geraldine Barclay  Secretary
- Sue Ferguson  Parent
- Donna Henry  Parent
- Finola Harrington  Parent
- Lisa Oogjen  Parent
- Kelli Holmes  Parent
- Karen Cameron  Parent
- Guy Wilcock  Community Representative
- Wendy Williams  Staff (Special Education Campus)
- Veena Madan  Staff (Girls' Education Campus)
- Adrian Simmons  Staff (Co-Education Campus)

The Governing Council would like to thank and acknowledge the work of the outgoing members of the Governing Council - Rick Coombes, Norma Cruse, Faye Webster, Bette Pontikinas, Judith Clelland and Jo Roberts.

**Staffing update**

Pepe Bouzalas will be acting as Deputy Principal whilst Karen Fitzpatrick is on leave for the first five weeks of term 2.

As a result of our increased enrolments we have been able to offer additional Year 8 and 9 classes in the Co-Education and Girls’ Campuses. These classes have already commenced and we welcome the new teachers of these classes:

**Girls' Education Campus**

- Natasha Ramsay  Year 8 and 9 English and Humanities
- Sarah Broadbent  Year 8 and 9 Maths and Science

**Co-Education Campus**

- Daniel Gale  Year 8 and 9 English and Humanities
- Peter Gent  Year 8 and 9 Maths and Science

Unfortunately there has been a delay in offering the very popular online tutoring program Yourtutor. Families will be notified once it becomes available for students to access.

I would like to wish all students and families a safe holiday and look forward to seeing you at the parent/teacher interviews next term.

Sandy Richardson
Principal

**Curriculum Report**

**School Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews**

Term 1 reports will be posted home to families on Friday April 10th. Families are invited to meet the teachers at school on Wednesday 6th May from 2.45pm – 6.45pm. Information about how to make appointments will be included in the envelope containing reports.

**NAPLAN Tests**

All of our year 9 students (along with every other Year 9 student in Australia) will sit the National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests on 12th, 13th and 14th May. The tests are very important as they help us determine students’ strengths and weaknesses in both literacy and numeracy. Our teachers use the results of the tests to plan strategies to improve student learning. A Year 9 parent letter will be sent home with more detail about the tests. If you have any queries about the tests please contact me on 8161 4600

Karen Fitzpatrick
Deputy Principal
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education

Term 1 has been a busy term at Roma Mitchell Secondary College. Our Year 12 students have continued to work with the Workabout Centre around their pathways and further education.

There will be a range of short courses including Hair & Beauty, Driver’s Ed and Barista for our Years 10, 11 and 12 students to participate in starting next term.

There will also be a ‘Career Walk’ event held at Elizabeth House next term. More details will be provided closer to the date.

In Term 2 our Years 9 and 10 students will start the AIME (Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience) program at Unisa, Mawson Lakes.

Sarah Afshin Pour
Aboriginal Education Coordinator

Special Education Campus Report

In recent weeks we have seen a number of changes around the Special Education Campus as we seek to improve both the learning environment and opportunities we offer our students. These changes have included the introduction of contemporary furniture in both our library and shared learning environments which truly add a splash of colour. We have also furnished a bedroom in the Independent Living Unit to support the delivery of NEP goals relating to Life Skills. The room will offer further opportunities for students to develop these essential skills in a practical setting.

Another recent development is the introduction of a trial program offered by Labs ‘n Life. This organisation trains future autism companion dogs and runs a school program which offers students the opportunity to experience success and gain confidence whilst learning how to build relationships. A number of students have had the opportunity to work with the dogs on a weekly basis to build positive relationships and the initial results have been very pleasing. The dogs have also visited all of the Special Education classrooms across the three campuses as part of their training as they further develop their skills in regards to engaging with young people. These visits have offered a wealth of learning opportunities and for some of our students it has reunited them with dogs they have worked with previously.

Our Annual Beach Day took place on the 20th March in near perfect conditions. The cool breeze and sunny skies complemented the fun activities and joy felt by those engaged in this outstanding learning activity. Our thanks go to Mel Lamb for organising this event and enthusiastically supporting the students.

On Wednesday 12th March we again sent a team of eager students to participate in the annual cycling event at the Adelaide International Raceway at Virginia. These opportunities to engage in learning outside the classroom are always well supported by our students who made a significant contribution to the event with many impressive performances. Caitlin Smith’s performance was especially noteworthy as she finished the day as our most successful student. Our thanks go to Gemma Upton for her impressive organisation of both the event and the students during the day.

Andrew Gilsean-Reed
Head of Campus
Special Education

Girls’ Campus Report

The Girls’ Campus had an enjoyable campus assembly where all SRC reps were presented with their badges. Congratulations again to all our representatives.

Congratulations also to Saneen Shazhad for being elected to the Executive of the SRC.
The assembly noted and recognised the contributions of women from all cultures and times as part of the celebration of International Women’s Day.

A group of year 12 girls from across the school were accompanied by 3 staff members to attend the UN International Women’s Day breakfast at the Convention Centre in Adelaide. The students who attended have included information about the event in this newsletter.

The Girls’ Campus has been fortunate to be able to provide an additional class at year 8 and year 9. Increased demand for places in these year levels has meant that the school has now created 3 classes at year 8 and 9 for the rest of the year. Some of these classes are smaller in size but will slowly increase throughout the year.

If you would like more information about these classes please contact Hung Doan, Cathryn Pearce or Sarah Afshin Pour who are the year level leaders for years 8 and 9.

International Women’s Day

On the 6th of March female student leaders in Prefect and SRC had the opportunity to attend the International Women’s Day Breakfast held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. In recent years, women have fought for and received many rights such as the right to vote and for women to be treated equally with men. However, there is still a long way to go in terms of equality in job prospects, gender bias, eradicating domestic violence and so much more.

Guest speaker Susan Carland talked about her research on how Muslim women fight sexism within the Muslim community and not only shed light on the matter but also inspired those who are present. The host, Senator Penny Wong also talked about the empowerment and equality of women especially in the workforce. It is very important to recognise women in society across the world.

This breakfast event was not only delicious but also made both men and women aware of the development the world has accomplished regarding the role and right of women in the world. Together we should unite and eliminate sexism, gender inequality and violence against women.

Judith Clelland
Head of Girls’ Education Campus

Co-Education Middle Years Campus Report

The middle school has been exceptionally busy over the last month with students attending to mainstream learning after a range of other activities such as Sports Days, photographs and immunizations earlier in the term.

During the last eight weeks our student numbers have steadily increased in both years 8 & 9 to a point where we have chosen to put in an extra class at each year level. Choosing which students to go into this new class has been a difficult process and staff have nominated a range of students who we will consider and have conversations with parents.

This week on Wednesday afternoon we will have our first campus assembly that will be run by middle school members of the student SRC. Students from the middle school SRC have also been busy representing their peers on the Strategic Directions and Uniform Committees with Ms Richardson.
The school Open Day was a success again and students from year 7 spent the evening on tours of the school that included displays by students set up in our Year 8 classrooms in building 11.

Prior to this day we completed a series of primary school visits advertising our Open Day where a number of year 9 students spoke to students about the differences between high school and primary school and what they liked about Roma Mitchell Secondary College. Some of these students are pictured above holding their appreciation certificates for assisting in this process.

The program for the assembly included:
- General information provided by our Principal Sandy Richardson;
- SRC Co-Education Senior Years students presented with SRC badges;
- Year 11 student Laura Booth performing ‘Thinking Out Loud’;
- Specialist Soccer program report presented by Ali Atkins;
- Harmony Day and National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence report provided by Ali Atkins;
- Women’s International Day report provided by Shirley Peng and a
- Sports update, including Sports Day video provided by Adam Carter (Senior Leader HPE).

Year 12 Study Areas

Year 12 students have study lines or non-scheduled lessons as part of their timetable. Last year Senior School Leaders reviewed the year 12 study area based on feedback received from students and staff and made changes to provide a range of study locations for student to work in. This includes:

- **Building 9 Da Vinci Room**
  Additional literacy and numeracy support provided
  Study line teachers and NEP, EALD, ATSI staff provide additional support

- **Building 9 Learning Common Area**
  Quiet individual study or quiet group work

- **Outside Area between buildings 8 and 9**
  Quiet group work
  Students can eat or drink in this area during study lesson time

- **Resource Centre**
  Quiet individual study

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**Co-Education Senior Years Campus Report**

**Co-Education Senior School assembly**

The Co-Education Senior School assembly provided a great opportunity for year 10, 11 & 12 students and staff to find out information about the great things that have been happening at our school and learn about upcoming events. Prefects Ali Atkins, Shirley Peng and Phillip Marier hosted the assembly.
The year 12 study areas allow students to study independently and in small groups and are supervised by staff that assist students with their work. Students are enjoying the additional new bright and colourful furniture that has been set up in the learning common area.

Pepe Bouzalas
Head of Co-Education
Senior Years Campus

Sport News

Manchester United Down Under

Roma Mitchell Secondary College was fortunate enough to host Manchester United and Repton School Academy coach Tom Statham to work with our year 8 Specialist Football class.

Tom has been coaching at Manchester United since 1994 and has helped produce quality players such as Danny Welbeck and Tom Cleverly who are now playing for top clubs around the world. Tom has also been fortunate enough to have worked with and learnt from some coaching greats including Sir Alex Ferguson.

Students had the opportunity to work with Tom to develop their technical and tactical knowledge of the game. The session provided our students with an insight into elite coaching and the professional attitude required to succeed in football. Tom was easily approachable and developed a good rapport with our students. Tom’s down to earth nature impressed our students, who showed great enthusiasm during the sessions.

We hope to continue our relationship with Tom and look forward to future visits.

Yours in Football
Theo Tsiounis

Ice Factor Tournament

On 30th March the Roma Mitchell Secondary College Blue Machine competed in the Ice Factor Tournament at the Ice Arena. We competed in the A division, the top school competition, and a very big test for our players. We opened with a couple of outstanding games, but came down with a thump losing a game we should have won, we just let them have too many easy shots. Fortunately our superstar goalie, who sometimes masquerades as Pastoral Support Worker Lauren Foote, held firm with some amazing saves but we still went down. We ended the day winning four games, and losing two.

Our team is made up of some strong and experienced players, Bradley, Aiden, Neil, Jacob and Will. We have some brand new players Jordan, Tim, Chloe, David and Brandon, and of course the sensation of the tournament Lauren. All did a great job, the experienced players all played superbly as a team, the new players all got a good run and showed great promise. As a team they all were well oiled cogs in a highly effective machine.

SSSSA Super Elliotts Time Trial

A Time Trial is a cycling event where riders ride a set distance by themselves to record a time that can be compared with other riders, it requires good fitness and a strong mental application, as it is a very tough event.

Secondary School Sport SA held a schools championship Time Trial on March 12th at the Adelaide International Raceway. It was a successful event for Roma Mitchell Secondary College SIS Cycling students. Albert Beauchamp collected a silver medal in the U19 competition, and Maddison
Warlow a silver and Kahlia Dalfson a bronze in the U17 competition. Daniel Chiuchiolo did very well to get 5th in the strong U17 male competition.

The rest of the competitors competed and represented the school very well. The team consisted of Albert, Daniel, Kenneth, Mathew, Ethan, Toby, Brayden, Nico, Stephen, Sam, Will, Tynan, Kahlia, Maddison, Fraser and Lachlan.

Dave Gomer
Specialist Sport

Innovation Challenge Update

Previously in the UniSA Innovation Challenge, we have been finalising sections of the Science Challenge and planning the Engineering Challenge. For each challenge, we have been organising the teams and roles that need to be completed within the determined timeline. Recently we have completed a floating craft that has the ability to collect 250ml of water from designated areas in wetland of Unity Park, Pooraka. Trials and testing of the craft have been accomplished at the site of the challenge day.

On open night, the Innovation team worked on the challenges and showcased to the visitors what we were doing.

For the engineering challenge, we have assembled the drone and have started to build the packages for the challenge. We have also been using Google SketchUp to design the math’s suburb plan. The new Arduino kits have arrived so we will be able to start the programming process of the Technology Challenge.

Overall, we have been working as a team and are enjoying and learning many skills from being a part of the Innovation Challenge. It would be helpful to have more members that are interested in being part of this experience and helping us succeed in completing the challenge.

Jacinta Jefferies and Kaitlin Newell
(Year 10 Girls campus)

Debating Club

On Thursday 19th April, 14 students from the Roma Mitchell Secondary College debating club went on an excursion to Parliament House in the city to view Question Time. This allowed the girls to view politicians in action, and to see a practical display of debating skills. The girls were intrigued and came out with a number of questions for the Parliamentary Education Officer.
It was interesting to see the similarities and differences in rules and behaviour between political debating and our own school debating.

This year Roma Mitchell Secondary College has three teams participating in Debating SA’s Interschool competition - one in Year 9, one in Year 10 and a Senior team. We run preparation sessions Monday and Thursday after school; as well as coaching and school debating sessions Tuesday lunchtimes.

If you are interested in joining the Debating Club, please see Mr Ward in the Co-Education Campus or Ms Hawksley in the Girls’ Education Campus.

Annelise Gill
ICT Coach - Mac PD & Eportfolios

Personal Learning Plan and Work Experience in 2015

Year 10 students will commence SACE by undertaking the compulsory unit of the Personal Learning Plan (PLP) in semester 2. The PLP will provide students with the opportunity to identify, research, investigate and develop knowledge, skills and understanding in their chosen career pathway through a variety of activities. Students will identify and reflect upon the skills and knowledge they have developed through participation in community activities, sport, volunteering, family caring and work.

For 2015 Work Experience is one of the options students may choose to demonstrate work skills and knowledge and in order to maximize learning opportunities it has been recommended that students wishing to undertake work experience do so in the July school holidays which include the weeks July 6th-10th and July 13th-17th. Feedback is being obtained from all Year 10 students regarding their preferred options for developing work skills. Students nominating to complete Work Experience will be supported by their Home Group teacher and PLP teacher to complete the required Workplace Learning Agreement. All PLP students will undertake training in Workplace Health and Safety, Equal Opportunity and Child Protection.

A range of excursions and worksite visits will be available to students by application and by nomination including Careers Week at the Botanic Gardens and Zoo, Science Alive excursion and STEM projects.

The Career Expo is to be held on Sunday June 14th and Monday June 15th at the Adelaide Convention Centre with free entry and this is recommended as a worthwhile activity for parents and students to encourage informed career decisions. In addition, all PLP students will develop an online Career Profile as part of the Career Awareness Program conducted in conjunction with the University of South Australia. Students will then have the opportunity to participate in an individual career interview with university graduates to further develop their Career Development Plan.

Parents wishing to discuss Work Experience further can contact Cathryn Pearce, VET and Careers Coordinator, or Helen Nielsen, Senior Leader, PLP

Cathryn Pearce
VET and Careers Coordinator, Counsellor

Library News

This term, in the Library has been very busy with over 6000 borrowings. Running two distinct libraries is challenging and next term students will begin to see Stage 2 of our redevelopment plan with more display areas and specialist subject areas replacing some of the shelves. The space has been made available through ‘weeding’ old and out of date books.

Our clock displays that change weekly as well as our moving globes on the counter demonstrate the changing environment in which we live.

Information changes all the time and our aim is to be at the cutting edge. E-books will be coming to the Library soon as well as other online tools.

Our new plants have revived the greenness of the library – it is now an oasis of books.

Peter Evans
Teacher Librarian
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

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**Fax:** 08 8161 4650

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