INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
AT MELBOURNE GIRLS GRAMMAR

At Melbourne Girls Grammar, international students are integral to bringing new perspectives to our community and we support these students throughout their education with us. In this newsletter, we look at some of the events and activities in which international students have taken part over the past couple of months.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

On Wednesday 2 March, international students Tiffany N., Shaqina S., Victoria L. and Grace G. attended the Victorian International School Student Welcome at Government House as invited guests of the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria.

At the start of proceedings, Governor Dessau gave all students a warm welcome in the very impressive ballroom, prior to morning tea being served in the garden, accompanied by live entertainment. Tiffany, Shaqina, Victoria and Grace toured the State Apartments while also mingling with other international students and Consular representatives.

The students were challenged by the Governor and Ms Essie Ma (International Student Leadership Award Recipient) to take up all the amazing opportunities schools have on offer.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MEETINGS

As a Boarding House, our boarders who are born overseas or whose parents live overseas, make up our International Committee. This is a group of people who gather together to chat about the common theme of being far from their families and experiencing a different culture and education. It is also a group within which girls’ interests, homes, families, traditions and food may vary from one another.

At meetings, girls discuss what may be done to continually improve the experience of boarding at MGGS as well as ways to thoroughly immerse themselves in the School culture. This month, some of our girls entered the ‘Star Search’ competition, performing a K-Pop dance for all the School, in addition to hosting an International Food Festival, where they prepared and shared food from many different cultures.

The Boarding House Council has an International Representative, Tiffany N., who acts as an advocate for her peers. Tiffany is a strong presence at our meetings, as is our International Student Coordinator, who joins the Boarding House for the meeting and often dinner too.

We celebrate the diversity our International Committee brings to the Boarding House and support them in their courage to embrace new opportunities and meet new people.
YEARS 11 AND 12 FORMALS

“For the international boarders, the Year 11 and Year 12 formals were completely new events that none of us had ever experienced. What’s more, the formals helped us to make our relationships even stronger, as all of us helped each other with make-up and choosing a nice dress. It felt like we were a family, all supporting each other.

At the end of the day, one thing is certain; the formal was one of the most valuable and unforgettable experiences of our whole lifetimes.” Erin Q., Year 12

“People were singing and dancing together, and the happiness in the air really helped to welcome me into local school life. I enjoyed learning more about this part of school culture in Australia.” Jerrica X., Year 12

HOUSE ATHLETICS

On Monday 1 May, all students in Years 5 – 12 participated in the Annual House Athletics Carnival at Lakeside Stadium. The girls enjoyed a wonderful day of athletics, cheering and supporting their House at this exciting event.
BONDS BETWEEN BOARDERS

All year levels reside in one house, where a relaxed and friendly atmosphere helps nurture students’ self-esteem as they receive support to reach their potential in all areas of School life.

Sharing rooms strengthens bonds between boarders and enables wonderful friendships to develop. We asked our international and local boarders to share their experiences below.

Tammy and Issy

Issy and Tammy both agree their friendship has flourished as a result of sharing a room together. The girls have learnt a lot about each other; Tammy has taught Issy Chinese words and how to play some of her favourite online games, and Tammy has enjoyed meeting Issy’s friends.

Ella and Shaqina

Shaqina said that sharing a room with Ella had been a great introduction to the Boarding House, as Ella has lots of friends who have helped Shaqina feel included. Ella has also enjoyed sharing with Shaqina, and both girls find it interesting to learn about each other’s cultures and lifestyles. Ella, in particular, said that she has learnt a lot about Malaysian culture from Shaqina, including the language.

Cassie and Emma

Cassie and Emma love being roommates. In fact, Cassie describes Emma as the best roommate she has ever had! She said that Emma motivates her to study more, and Emma said that Cassie reminds her to stress less and relax.

Cassie and Emma are both involved with extra-curricular music. Meanwhile, Cassie has been teaching Emma Chinese. Emma finds this challenging but Cassie assists with translating concepts with the aid of Google Translate. Cassie emphasised that she enjoys improving her English skills by speaking openly with Emma.
SCHOOL CONCERT

The Merton Hall School Concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre was a wonderful celebration of creativity, collaboration and community.

The MGGS community was privileged to hear from Year 12 student Hannah S., who performed one of the most difficult of all Mozart concerti. Hannah is regarded as one of Australia’s finest young performers and has been attending MGGS since Year 9. She hails from Korea.

CONNECT WITH US

For further information or to request a tour of the Melbourne Girls Grammar facilities, please contact the Melbourne Girls Grammar Enrolments Office on +61 3 9862 9200 or enrolments@mggs.vic.edu.au

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