

MHJC News

Issue two

April 2011



**Mission Heights
Junior College**
"Growing
Greatness"

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Kia Ora,

As we approach the end of our Term 1, 2011, we can look back on a very busy and successful term for our school. We are proud of our students who never cease to amaze the many visitors to our school with their positive outlook and their warmth and enthusiasm which is evident as you walk around the school.

To achieve a positive learning culture you require dedicated, skilled and caring teachers and I am equally proud of our teachers who genuinely care about our students and their learning. The many activities that have happened this term, including camps, sleepovers, trips and other extra curricular activities in addition to normal learning programmes could not happen without them being prepared to invest considerable time and energy. I feel privileged to work with such an amazing group of dedicated professionals.

Our recent surveys of parents students and teachers have shown that this positivity is shared by the vast majority of you also and this is very heartening for us. However we are not a school that will rest on its laurels and we also appreciate the many constructive suggestions put forward. Our Board will meet during the break to consider these, in detail, and to determine our way forward.

I genuinely believe that if we can work closely in partnership, parents teachers and students, then our children stand the best chance of success. We urge parents to log into Mission Heights Online where you can monitor your child's learning programme in detail and also their assessments as they are posted on our E reporting system. If you need any help with finding information on Mission Heights Online your child can help you and please also do not hesitate to contact the AP or Curriculum Leader of your child's whanau for assistance.

We are really looking forward to an equally positive Term 2 and many more challenges and successes for our students. We wish everyone a relaxing and happy break.

Joan Middlemiss

Year 8 visit to Ormiston Senior College, Term 2

When our students graduate after Year 10 they will progress to NZ's newest Senior College, Ormiston Senior College. During the year there will be opportunities for Year 8, 9 and 10 students to visit and learn more about this amazing school facility. Our first visit is for Year 8 students in session 1 (8:35 am) on May 10th.

Parents are also very welcome to accompany us and learn more about the school. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity please just let your child's AP know.

Some Dates to Remember

MHJC Cross Country:

Tuesday 12th April 1:30 pm

Disco: Thursday 14th April,
7:00pm -9:30 pm (MHJC
Theatre)

Water Whanau "Have a
Go" day Friday 15th April

End of Term 1: Friday April
15th

Start of Term 2: Monday
2nd May

Year 8 Visit to Ormiston
Senior College: Tuesday
10th May

Congratulations Kayla!

At a recent exhibition at Uxbridge Arts Centre, Year 8 student Kayla Gardiner's photo was named as the winner of the Manager's Choice Award. Kayla's photo is pictured below.



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Water Camp 5th -8th April

Water Whanau Year7s and 10s enjoyed their 2011 camp at Stedfast Camp, Piha. Despite the recent chilly change in the weather, the camp was a huge success. Thank you to the teachers, parents and Year 10 leaders who ensured that the Year 7s had such a great time.



Mountains Learning Experiences

Mountains Whanau have learnt a lot about emergencies and survival this term and what a topical issue as our thoughts have been on the Christchurch and Japan Earthquakes. They experienced an Emergency Scenario Day at Maraetai, where recent floods had affected homes and businesses and last week had a survival night sleepover in the relative comfort of their whanau!



**Phoning in an
Absence?**

**Please
remember to
use our direct
dial number**

2505600

Shaping OSC's Big Day

The Mission Heights Junior College Community Problem Solving team which won the right to represent us and NZ at the national finals last year will travel to the International Finals in the United States in June. At the Opening of Ormiston Senior College recently "Shaping OSC" presented the Ormiston Senior College Principal, Mr Jackways, with a framed "Wordle" word picture which portrayed the hopes and dreams of the foundation students for their new school. The students also had an opportunity to explain their project to Prime Minister John Key, who was most impressed that students had actively been involved in shaping the culture of their new school.



Forest Whanau Learning Expeditions

Forest Whanau recently experienced a traditional Maori welcome or powhiri onto the Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate Marae and also visited the museum as part of their Term 1 whanau learning context where they focussed on kiwiana and aspects of our New Zealand culture.



MHJC Co- Hosts Asia Pacific Primary Maths Olympiad



On Saturday 9th April while many students were relaxing and enjoying their weekend 24 keen and talented young mathematicians took part in the NZ preliminary round of the Asia Pacific Primary Maths Olympiad at MHJC. We were delighted to be asked to be the NZ host for this competition and look forward to the competition growing in NZ over the coming years. The verdict from students was that the two hour exam was "very hard"!

Coast Whanau visits Goat Island Marine Reserve

Coast whanau has been focussing its studies on the sea and related issues this term. This culminated in an exciting opportunity to experience marine life close up and first hand at Goat Island Marine Reserve. Despite many postponements due to weather perseverance finally saw all the trips completed and from the excited reaction from students and teachers the wait was clearly worth it!



Our Enviro Team are hard at work.

Our Enviro Team have been replanting seedlings from the Trees for Survival unit before they plant them out in July. They are also planning to create a pot garden at school.

Do you have any plant pots, preferably middle size or large pottery or ceramic ones that you no longer want that the team could use for their project? If so please contact Mrs Hetaraka khetaraka@mhjc.school.nz



Orienteering

It is always great to see new activities on offer at MHJC and it is important for students to keep checking the E Updates for information on all extra curricular activities. One such new activity this year was Orienteering, a sport of endurance and navigation where students are challenged to find a set a sequence of checkpoints as fast as possible. They need to reach all of the stations before returning to the finish. The events our students competed in were sponsored by KiwiSport and run by the Counties Manukau Orienteering Club.



Travel Wise

Under the leadership of Mrs Hetaraka our travelwise initiatives have been focussed on encouraging students to travel safely to school and not to rely on car transport. At a recent award ceremony MHJC received a bronze award for our travel wise initiatives during the last year.