

MHJC News

Issue Ten

November 2009



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

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Kia Ora,

Many schools never have the opportunity to share the pride of having a national champion winning team, or individual, from their school and so it was with great pride and real excitement that we welcomed our Community Problem Solvers back from the National Finals knowing that we had won both the Middle Division of the competition and, along with Mission Heights Primary, also the Junior division. Both teams have now earned the right to represent New Zealand at the International Future Problem Solving Finals in Wisconsin, USA. in June 2010. What an amazing achievement for a school in its first year!

Our teams now face the challenge of fundraising \$75000 to realise their dream and I am sure as a school community we will get behind them with our support.

The excitement did not end there as we learned also that Year 8 student Jayan Ratna was one of only 25 Year 7 and 8 students nationally to reach the finals of the Doodle4Google art competition. Also in the art field, three Mission Heights Junior College students had their designs selected to be printed on Christmas cards supporting the Life Education Trust. We would love you to support our school and the Life Education programme by ordering some of these cards which you can see in this newsletter.

There was even more good news to come when we learned that our Year 9 Food Technology class had taken out a second place in the national Fuelled for Schools competition.

As the year draws to a close our busy schedule has continued with Year 9 examinations, our school athletics sports, preparations for our Mission Heights Goes Live shows and other events such as our knitathon for Kidzfirst hospital, the Let's Get Inventin' shoot and so many other learning opportunities.

We look forward to you all joining us to celebrate our very successful first year at our Prize Giving on December 11th. Our first Year Book which highlights what has been a great year is also currently on sale.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of Mission Heights Junior College.

Joan Middlemiss , Principal

Teacher Union Meeting Reminder

On Tuesday 17th November classes at Mission Heights Junior College will not run as normal in the afternoon due to the requirement for members of the Secondary Teachers Union (PPTA) to attend a Union Meeting regarding the next round of national salary negotiations.

Students may leave school at the beginning of lunch time if their Assistant Principal has been informed by e mail or letter, in advance, that they will be doing so. No student will be released from school without prior permission. Those students who remain at school will be supervised but lessons will not run. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Year 9 Examinations

Our Year 9 students recently experienced their first formal examinations. To help prepare our students for senior school examinations we ensured that examination procedures mirrored these as closely as possible.

Students responded well to the seriousness of the examinations and now look forward nervously to their results.



MHJC Goes Live!

Join us for a night of drama, dance, music song and art at **7:00 pm on November 27th and 28th in the MHJC Theatre**. Tickets are \$5 for advance sales and \$6 on the night, with half the proceeds supporting our Problem Solving Teams who will also sell food and drinks before the performance and during the interval.

Student art will be displayed and sold to support the SPCA.



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MHJC 2009 Prizegiving

*Mission Heights Junior College Prizegiving will be held on **December 11th at 2:00 pm in the School Gymnasium**. Parents and Friends of the school are warmly invited to join us to celebrate our students' academic, sporting, cultural and leadership achievements.*

Community Problem Solvers Win National Titles!

This year a number of students have worked on Community Problem Solving as part of their DEEP programme.

Two of these teams learned at the start of Term 4 that they had gained selection to attend the national finals. A combined MHP and MHJC team, C.C.C. (Creative Cyber Citizens) including Anusha and Liam from MHJC, competed in the Junior Section. The team coached by Mrs Vohra and Miss Wills from MHP focussed on developing positive cyber citizenship in young primary students and have already been in class delivering lessons. The team has formed a relationship with Hector's World, an award winning cyber safety organisation, and aims for MHP to become NZ's first Hector's School.

T.A.N.E. (Trees Are Nature's Educators), coached by Mrs Middlemiss, competed in the Middle Division. Daisy, Helen, Alex, Georgia, Christopher and Cara, have worked hard to gain approval from Manukau City Council to open up and officially adopt the neighbouring bush reserve as a learning environment for both schools. They will continue to work alongside the Council, our Enviro students and community groups to create a low impact track, repair bridges and clear weeds and rubbish from the long abandoned bush reserve. They intend to create an audio tour to educate students about the beauty and wonder of our precious native trees and birds.

The teams now need to raise \$75,000 to travel to Wisconsin for the International finals in June 2010. If you have any fundraising suggestions we would love to hear from you.



The proud teams and coaches with their trophies after the competition.

Family and Friends Desktop Calendar Fundraiser

Our wonderful Family and Friends Group are selling attractive desktop calendars featuring student art. Calendars are \$10 each (\$16 for two) and can be purchased at Reception. These make great little gifts so purchase your calendars now.



Badminton

Well done to our Badminton players who recently represented us at the Eastern zone competitions!



The Pogun Challenge

On Thursday, 12th November the Let's Get Inventin' Team returned to MHJC to film the final part of Johanna's Pogun Challenge.

Johanna's invention was a combination of a pogo stick and a helmet mounted water gun and the result was messy fun as two teams battled it out with the newly created poguns loaded with coloured water.



The players were a colourful sight by the end of the challenge and they declared the invention a success. It tested their balance, stamina, and co-ordination!

Well done Johanna! We look forward to the programme screening in February 2010.

Fuelled for Schools Challenge Congratulations Year 9 Food Technology!

This year our Year 9 Food Technology class took on a real challenge when they entered the Fuelled for Schools Challenge, aimed to promote healthy lifestyles in schools. The students had many creative ideas including teaching Primary students how to cook, and developing an on line cookbook.

Their efforts were rewarded when they received a framed certificate and a \$500 gift voucher for sports gear as a prize for gaining second place in the national competition!



2009 MHJC Year Book

We are now taking orders for the 2009 MHJC School Yearbook and Memoir DVD. The DVD has a selection of photos from camps, the official opening, discos and a movie of the journey of our school, literally from the ground up! Students, please bring your \$15 order/money to Miss Kindley and the Yearbook team each morning before school in the Coast Whanau.



Doodle 4 Google Year 7&8 Finalist

Well done to Jayan Ratna for being a top 25 finalist nationally with this great Google Doodle.



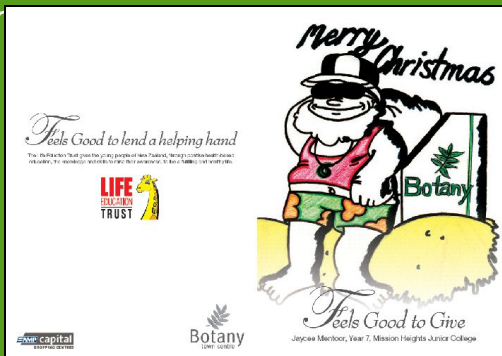
Reminder re 2009 fees payment

We would appreciate prompt payment of all outstanding 2009 fees. Compulsory fees of \$80 must be paid by December 11th please. Payment of the contribution enables us to maintain our unique DEEP learning programmes and intensive ICT environment.

Congratulations to Botony Town Centre and Life Education Card design winners:

Eric Ho, James Song and Jaycee Mentor.

The cards can be ordered through the school for \$2 each using the emailed order form or by contacting Reception. Support our school and Life Education this Christmas. Ordered cards will be delivered late November

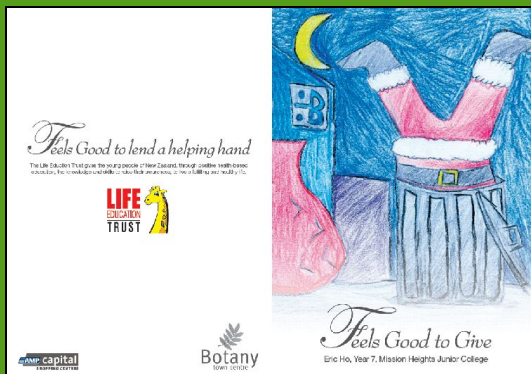


Design 1:

by Jaycee Mentor

Design 2:

By James Song



Design 3:

by Eric Ho

Students Perform at Manukau Arts Festival

Mission Heights Junior College students have again taken to the stage, this time as part of the Manukau Arts Festival.

Samuel Young, Ryan Tennent and Callan Waugh linked up with students from other schools to perform at the TelstraClear Events Centre in Manukau with the famous New Zealand percussion group, Strike.

The boys had two rehearsal sessions with Strike earlier in the week, where they had to learn specific pieces and even rehearse a solo part, then hit the stage on Friday night before a live audience.

