

We hope you enjoy May's edition of 'Mission Heights News.'  
Please click [View it in your browser](#) to view text plus images in this newsletter.

To translate our newsletter, please  
[View it in your browser](#) then click 'Translate'  
(top right).

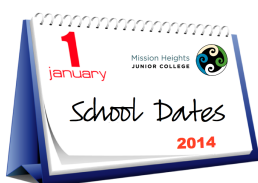
As this is 'Google Translate', exact  
translation will not be achieved, especially  
with titles and names.



Principal, Mrs Joan Middlemiss.

## OUR VISION

"Growing Greatness through  
innovative, constantly evolving,  
personalised learning..."



## Message from the Principal

### May Newsletter

*Information for students and parents*

It was a real pleasure to return to school at the beginning of the term after my sabbatical leave and find the school in such good heart. This is a sign of a good school, where our high expectations, our positive culture and our focus on learning are so well embedded. My thanks go out to our leadership team and especially to **Mr Naidoo** for so capably leading the school in my absence.

During my leave I had the opportunity to visit a number of schools and to interview Principals both in New Zealand and overseas, who, like us, are leading schools which will effectively prepare students for their futures in the 21st Century. I also attended a leading international conference, with speakers from both education and the business world. In all cases, I came away with the reassurance that at **Mission Heights Junior College**, we are not only following the right path, as challenging as that is at times, but in so many ways, we have been leading where others are now following.

On another topic it seems amazing as we enter Term 2 that we are already looking forward to and planning for our 2015 year. Such is the rate of growth in our area and in our school that, to ensure quality for our students, we must pro actively manage our growth as we constantly strive to keep raising the bar.

Plans are well advanced for a third Primary school in our area, on Ormiston Road and the Ministry is now consulting with schools about the proposed opening of the next Junior College. Current estimates are that this will open in 2017. The need for additional schooling is evident as our roll continues to grow at a pace well above the national rate. In the

## Upcoming Events

*Dates are also published on our website.*

### TravelWise Workshop

Thursday 29th May

### Queen's Birthday Holiday

Monday 2nd June

### ICAS Science Exam

Wednesday 4th June

### Family & Friends Meeting

Wednesday 4th June, 7pm  
Forest Whanau

### Class Photos

Thursday 5th June

### Talent Quest Finals

Thursday 12th June

### ICAS Writing Exam

Monday 16th June

### ICAS Spelling Exam

Tuesday 17th June

### Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 25th June

### SEZ Boys Hockey

Thursday 26th June

### Family & Friends Meeting

Wednesday 2nd July, 7pm

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## 2014 Term Dates

### Term 2

Monday 5th May to  
Friday 4th July  
(9 Week Term)

### Term 3

Monday 21st July to  
Friday 26th September  
(10 Week Term)

### Term 4

Monday 13th October to  
Wednesday 10th December  
(9 Week Term)

*Please do not book overseas travel during term time.*

meantime we remain committed to offering a high quality personalised education to the children who live within our local community. We see no benefit in an overly large school environment. With a current roll of over 750 we have the critical mass to offer wide subject choice and a high quality educational experience plus a wide range of sporting and cultural activities and yet we maintain a strong sense of belonging and community for our students, supported by our Whanau structure. We can assure you that maintaining this level of quality is an absolute priority for us and our Board of Trustees.

Regards,

**Joan Middlemiss**

## 'Project Alert' Representing NZ at Community Problem Solving Internationals

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Project Alert Team and their coach Mrs Middlemiss, fly to the United States to represent MHJC and New Zealand at the 'Future Problem Solving, International Community Problem Solving Competition'. They will be among around 3000 students and coaches at the event, where they will present their project to international judges and the wider public at the University of Iowa campus in Ames.

The students have already submitted a 12 page written and visual submission. On site they will present the in depth story of their project in a scrapbook, a display which they must construct on site, a 5 minute video and an in depth 30 minute interview. Students also attend a 3 hour fair where they will be observed as they present their project to 1000s of visitors.

We wish the team well and, whatever the outcome, we are extremely proud of their achievements to date.

You may wish to view a short video clip that details Project Alert's learning journey, on YouTube...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJKGojE-X7w>





### **MHJC Family & Friends**

#### **What's Coming Up?**

The next MHJC Family and Friends meeting is being held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 4th June, starting in Lower Forest Whanau.

The focus of the meeting will be a 'Science Information Evening', presented by MHJC's science teachers. We hope you can join us.

Should your child require supervision during this time, Coast Whanau will be open and computers available for homework or eLearning.



### **WaiCare Group Win People's Choice Award**

The results of the Waicare March Monitoring Month are in and Mission Heights Junior College have won the "People's Choice" Award for our rap about rivers.

A massive congratulations to all students who took part and particularly Akshay Kakkar and company for their winning entry!



### **Mission Heights Students Invited to Write Blogs for Careers NZ Website**

In Term 1, 10M2 hosted the Careers NZ CEO and had a great opportunity to ask questions about future careers and discuss where they see themselves in 10 years time. Due to their amazing responses, students were asked to each write a blog to be posted on the Careers NZ website. The first two have been published already, with subsequent ones to be added each Friday. Teacher Mrs Melissa Watt is proud of the high aspirations of MHJC students and encourages us to visit their blog... <http://blog.careers.govt.nz/>



### **MHJC Visit Auckland Writer's Festival**

It was a great opportunity for Year 10 Mountains students to be able to attend the Secondary Schools Programme of the Auckland Writer's Festival on Thursday May 15th. They were enchanted with Eleanor Catton's genuine attitude and her formula to create wonderful pieces of work; John Marsden enlightened them with ways in which to use the English language to make their writing adventurous and unconventional. Creative writing is now on the horizon as they now have great tools to help craft their writing - perhaps the next great New Zealand writer is at MHJC!

### **BOT Uniform Review Survey**

The Board of Trustees is currently reviewing the school's uniform. We would like parent feedback on the current items and to collect suggestions for any alterations and/or additions to our uniform. The colours and style of the uniform will not be changing. Please remember the uniform is not a fashion statement, so please be reasonable when making any suggestions. Parents, to complete the survey, please visit...

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JNHWGHH>

We ask that parents complete the survey by Friday 30th May.

Thank you for your support.

**MHJC Board of Trustees**



# TRAVELwise



Bus, bike, walk, rideshare!

## TravelWise Update

Thank you to parents, teachers and students who completed our recent TravelWise surveys. The purpose of these surveys was to gain a greater understanding of the patterns of travel to and from Mission Heights Junior College. The survey will also be used to identify possible walking, school bus or cycling routes.



## Trees For Survival

Our new Enviro Council has been busy potting seedlings to support the Trees for Survival program this term. Students will plant mature seedlings in local farms towards the end of Term 2.



## World Champs Mania at MHJC

This month MHJC have been tackling the Language Perfect World Championships. This



## Year 8 Girls SEZ Soccer

On Thursday 8th May, our Year 8 girls' soccer team participated in the South Eastern Zone tournament. Our team played five games against some fierce competitors. All girls performed exceptionally well and demonstrated great teamwork skills. Stand out players were Maryanne Vaenuku from 8W1 and Lynn Han from 8M1.



## WOW! Look at Our Wearable Arts...

The Wearable Arts DEEP class impressed at the 'Blueprint' awards show last Saturday evening. The show featured both adult and student entries and was judged by a panel of four judges included celebrity fashion designers Patrick Steele and Kevin Buchanan. MHJC competed against students from Year 7 up to Year 13 and were delighted that all of their garments were selected for the final show.

MHJC students worked incredibly hard to design and complete the costumes so quickly, overcoming many challenges along the way. MHJC's

competition involves competing with over 100,000 students from over 1100 schools in over 20 countries. Students have been translating into and out of various languages including Afrikaans, French, German, Japanese, Spanish, Indonesian, Latin, Malay, Samoan, Tongan and many more. Last year our school placed 6th globally and 2nd nationally at the conclusion of the 2013 World Champs.

At the time of this newsletter going to print today, MHJC students had earned over **140 awards**, including 9 of the top Elite awards for students with over 10,000 points. Historically, less than 1% of students achieve this, so for 9/208 students to have done so already is wonderful. We are firmly within the top 5 in the world overall, and lead the world in Maori, while coming a close second in Tongan and Samoan.

Organiser **Ms Trudi Wigg** is delighted with the dedication and passion for language demonstrated by students and looks forward to sharing final results.



entry placed **third** out of the 47 garments that were entered in the **Reclaim Section** (refer top right image: named '**Evil**') and **third** in the **Organic Section** (refer bottom right image: named '**Storybook**').

Our models gained high praise for their grace and poise on stage, as well as for the originality and detail of their garments. **Wearable Arts DEEP** teacher, **Mrs Jacqui Barrow** was especially impressed that the class achieved a 100% submission rate, as all garments were finished and made the final. Please visit the girls' display at our school reception.



### MHJC Netballers Support Mystics at Trusts Arena

On May 4th the MHJC Year 9 & 10 Premier Netball Team, accompanied by Ms Wigg, Miss Shields, and Head Coach Lou Culley traveled to **The Trusts Arena** in **Waitakere City** to watch the **Northern Mystics** vs **Southern Steel ANZ Championship Netball** match. This was a wonderful opportunity for our elite netballers to be inspired by the achievements of top kiwi sportswomen.

Despite much cheering, the **Mystics** didn't take the win on this occasion. However, the girls relished the opportunity to talk with some of their sporting idols including **Catherine Latu**, **Maria Tutaia**, **Temalisi Fakahokotau** and their team mates.

### MHJC's Representative Netballers

Congratulations to the following MHJC netballers who have been selected into representative netball teams this season:

**Lafi Tu'a:** Howick Pakuranga Club, Year 10, '**A**' Team

**Lasalle Lefale:** Howick Pakuranga Club, Year 10, '**B**' Team





We'd love you to follow us on Facebook! Simply click on the buttons below to be directed to our new Facebook page, or our website.



Facebook



Website

**Manasseh Gray:** Howick Pakuranga Club, Year 9, 'A' Team

**Jazmin Stevens-Apaipora:** Howick Pakuranga Club, Year 8, 'A' Team

**Viona Silao:** Auckland Netball Club, Under 15, 'A' Team

**Katelyn Knox:** Auckland Netball Club, Year 8, 'B' Team



Our Family & Friends Invite you to a...

# MHJC SCIENCE EVENING

Parents, please come and learn more about MHJC'S wonderful science programmes, at our Parent Information Evening...

**Wednesday 4th June, starting at 7pm**

Please meet in Lower Forest Whanau

*(Demonstrations will be held upstairs in our Science Labs)*

- Meet teachers of Science
- Learn about junior & senior science programmes, co-constructed learning plus demonstrations
  - How to join MHJC's Science Fair & NIWA Science Fair

*We hope you can join us!*

