

We hope you enjoy our **December** edition of 'Mission Heights News.'
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'translate' (top right).

As this is 'Google Translate', exact
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especially with titles and names.



Principal, Mr Ian Morrison

OUR VISION

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



Message from the Principal

December Newsletter

Information for students and parents

“Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei”

**“Aim for the highest cloud so that if you miss it, you will reach
a lofty mountain”**

It is with a mixture of exhaustion and anticipation that we reach the end of term 4. Everyone at MHJC can feel justifiably proud of the achievements of our students this year and I must acknowledge the incredible efforts of our staff in helping them to scale new heights. There is no worse feeling than finishing a race, examination or interview with the feeling that you had not “emptied the tank” which, had you done so, may have improved the outcome. I hope that parents and students appreciate that for most teachers, the first week of any holiday is usually spent refilling “the tank” as we recover from a busy term. Rest assured, we perform our duties with pleasure and look with anticipation at the opportunity to recharge the batteries with family and friends over the holiday, so we may return ready to serve our community in 2016.

I also trust that our students feel they have achieved their goals for the year and can reflect with satisfaction on their individual achievements. Use the holidays to refresh as well so that next year you return determined as ever to achieve even greater heights.

Finally thanks to all our parents, coaches, volunteers and sponsors who have supported us in our efforts to provide for the needs of our students. May all our friends and families enjoy a safe and joyful Christmas holiday.

Staff News

We extend our best wishes to Mrs Loggie and Mrs Wright who will be leaving MHJC at the end of the year.



Upcoming Events

Dates are also published on our website, [Mission Heights Online](#).

Parents, please note the last day of school for Yr 7, 8 & 9 students... (Yr 10's attend school too) Prizegiving Ceremonies in the Gym

Tuesday 15th December
Year 9: 9:00am
Year 8: 11:30am
Year 7: 1:30pm

Parents, please note the last day of school for Yr 10 students... (No school for Yr 7, 8, & 9) Year 10 Graduation in the Gym

Wednesday 16th December
Year 10: 6:00pm

Teacher Only Day
Thursday 17th December
(No School for Students)

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2015 Term Dates

Term 4

Monday 12th October to
Wednesday 16th December
(10 Week Term)

2016 Term Dates

Term 1

Admin Day: Compulsory for all students and parents

Tuesday 2nd February, 2016
8:30am to 3:30pm or
5:30pm to 8:30pm

Yr 7 & 10 Students Start

Wednesday 3rd February, 2016

All Students at School

Thursday 4th February, 2016

Term 1 Concludes

Friday 15th April, 2016
(11 Week Term)

I would also like to congratulate the following teachers who will be leading various important initiatives at the school next year and who will help us to achieve our Vision, strategic plan and achievement targets:

- e-Learning coordinator - Mrs Palethorpe
- Maori and Pasifika coordinator - Ms McGrath
- Numeracy coordinator - Mrs Phadke
- Literacy and digital literacy coordinator - Mrs Kilpatrick

Student participation and commitment to excellence within our cornerstones will be promoted by:

- Academics - Miss Hunter
- Cultural - Miss Shields
- Leadership - Mrs Naidoo
- Sport - Mr Groenewald

Personalised learning programmes will be strengthened through our DEEP programme and will be coordinated by Ms Grant. Our Whanau coordinators will be:

- Coast - Mrs Naidoo
- Forest - Mrs Kilpatrick
- Water - Mr Field-Mitchell
- Mountains - Ms Cunningham

Study Awards

Best wishes to Mrs Lal who has received a study grant to complete her masters and will be away for the first two terms of 2016 and Mrs Palethorpe who has also been awarded a similar grant and will be remaining in her position in Coast Whanau. It is great to support teachers who are extending their qualifications, which will ultimately be of benefit to the school and our students.

Feedback Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. Your responses are valuable and will help to inform decision-making and processes. A more detailed summary of your feedback will be provided next year, however it is pleasing to note the high levels of satisfaction expressed by students, parents and staff in most of the key areas of the school's operations. The staff is committed to continuous improvement and we will strive to strengthen areas that have been highlighted by you while feeling some professional and collective pleasure with the positive comments made about the school.

Regards,

Ian Morrison

Please do not book overseas
travel during term time.



Market Day A Success!

Congratulations to Year 9 Social Enterprise students and Year 10 Business Studies students who held a successful Market Day during lunch time on Wednesday 25th November. One Year 9 Social Enterprise class held the responsibility for planning the day (including the theme, music, posters, tables and money floats), whilst the other class worked in groups to plan, prepare and sell products.



Forest Students Enter TRYathlon

Year 7 students from Forest Whanau have been busy preparing for the Weetbix Tryathlon for their context, 'Train your Body'. This term students have been investigating the benefits of an active lifestyle and increasing their active

Highly Commended in 2015 Codeworx Competition

Congratulations to Sarah Hamza, Tyla Amos and Christina Bang from 9F2 who were awarded Highly Commended for their project 'Feel the Heat' that was entered into the Codeworx computer programming competition. The team has produced a device that alerts car owners when their car starts to overheat to evade the death of animals and children trapped in heated cars with no ventilation. Sarah, Tyla and Christina have won a \$50 Westfield voucher each. View their video on the link below...

<https://vimeo.com/147260979>



Mayor Len Brown Visits Mountains Students

When Auckland Mayor Len Brown received a pile of letters from some students in Mr Penfold's 7M1 English class, he felt compelled to make contact with the school and come in to speak to the students in person. He was so impressed with their enthusiastic ideas about the new development at Flat Bush Town Centre, that he came to give his responses. He knows our school well, having visited the site on previous occasions. Being a local, the mayor showed his care for the environment by walking to MHJC in the morning.

In Term 3 the two contexts that Mountains students were exploring

minutes each day, by participating in regular physical activity.

Forest's Year 7 students have participated in both a swim and bike day to prepare for the swim and bike legs of the **Weet-Bix TRYathlon**. Congratulations to the 16 students from Forest Whanau who competed in the TRYathlon at Mountford Park on Wednesday 8th December.



Auckland Libraries Great Summer Read

Auckland Libraries are organising a **"Great Summer Read"** competition. There are great prizes to be won and this is a good way to keep up your reading over the summer break.

You simply need to be a library member to take part!

were; **"Fabulous Flat Bush"** (Years 7 and 8) and **"Leadership"** (Years 9 and 10). With students present who had studied both contexts, they were able to ask the mayor about his opinions and ideas on both subjects. He answered their questions very well, even dealing with some "curly" questions from our more politically aware Year 10 students!

Coupled with the visit earlier last term from our local MP, **Jamie-Lee Ross**, it was fun to meet another well known person. These were great authentic outcomes to help wrap-up both of these contexts.



Make a Difference - Wishing Well Tree

This term the 'Make a Difference' team dedicated their efforts towards supporting **KMART's Wishing Well Tree**. Students were mostly interested in gifting toys to children from in need families within our local community. The team set a goal to raise \$250, but outperformed their own expectations by raising a \$402 through bakes sales.

A special thank you to **Miss Catherine Hunter** for baking over 3 dozen cupcakes to support this cause. **Botany Downs KMART** managers **Tina** and **Liz** visited the class to collect the 45 brand new gifts the students had purchased with the proceeds of their fundraising. Their presentation was informative and gave deeper purpose to the gifts that would be distributed to children at Christmas time, through the **Salvation Army**.



Ms Rabo Presents at ULearn

KDEC Teacher, Ms Vivita Rabo was selected as one of Core Education e-fellows for 2015. As part of this e-fellowship, Ms Rabo engaged in empowering professional development on future-focused ICT to support innovative teaching and leadership.

Ms Rabo also carried out a brief inquiry on transforming learning for students who are deaf/hearing impaired within a KDEC provision in a mainstream school. She presented the findings of this inquiry at ULearn this year and highlighted the importance of active listening, communication (korero) and collaboration with students.



10W1's Taste of University Life

On Wednesday 18th November students from 10W1 had the opportunity to participate in the "My Future" programme at AUT South Campus. Students had been working hard throughout Terms 3 and 4 compiling CV's, cover letters and making informed choices about their future careers as a part of their MHJC learning context, "It's My Future!"

Under the guidance of AUT ambassadors, students were involved in a range of challenging leadership and team work activities. We wish 10W1 all the very best for their future pathways and hope that this taste of 'university life' has given good exposure to future opportunities.



7W1 & 7W2's WaiCare Stream Monitoring

As a part of their learning context, 'Shaping Our Community and Our World' 7W1 and 7W2 have been testing water quality and sampling macro invertebrates in streams around the Flat Bush community. An expert from WaiCare has helped our students learn about the trigger values of the various parameters used to assess the water quality of our streams.

Students have thoroughly enjoyed analysing the bugs found in the streams to give an overall judgement of the water quality, based on tolerance levels.



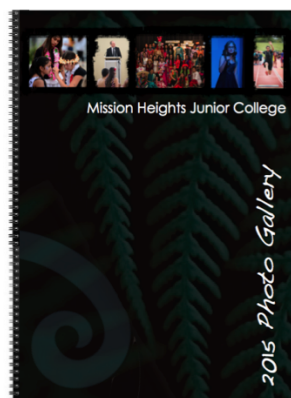
**Ms Lambert &
Mr Field Mitchell -
21st Century Learning**

Congratulations also to MHJC teachers Ms Kate Lambert and Mr James Field-Mitchell who presented to approximately 25 colleagues from around New Zealand at the ULearn Conference.

The teachers lead an hour and a half workshop sharing MHJC's collaborative planning approach (relevant, engaging and authentic contexts) and the development of MHJC's learning framework.



Have you purchased the
MHJC 2015 Photo Gallery yet?



- ☒ A full school set of 2015 class photos
- ☒ Dozens of team and group photos
- ☒ Order Now! \$15 from the MHJC reception



MHJC's Athletics Champions

Mission Heights Junior College held their 7th annual **Athletics Day** on Friday 6th November. Students and staff had a great day at **Lloyd Elsmore Park**, with **Forest Whanau** coming out as victors. There were many great performances throughout the day, however, the following students were our junior and senior champions:

Junior Girls:

Tiana Herewini - 15pts

Senior Girls:

Ngapihi Herewini - 18pts

Junior Boys:

Jarrod Millar - 12pts

Senior Boys:

Dylan Honey - 15pts

Jayshant Kumar - 12pts

South Eastern Zone Athletics

On Tuesday 24th November Mr Groenewald took MHJC's biggest team ever to the **South Eastern Zone Athletics Championships**. 64 students competed with some commendable results. The strongest placing of the day was our **Year 7 boys relay team** who won the boys relay and therefore qualified for the **Auckland Championships**.





A reminder that Mission Heights Junior College is **open for viewing** by the public on Wednesday mornings each week, starting at 9:45am from our school reception. Come and see our learners in action!

CONTACT US



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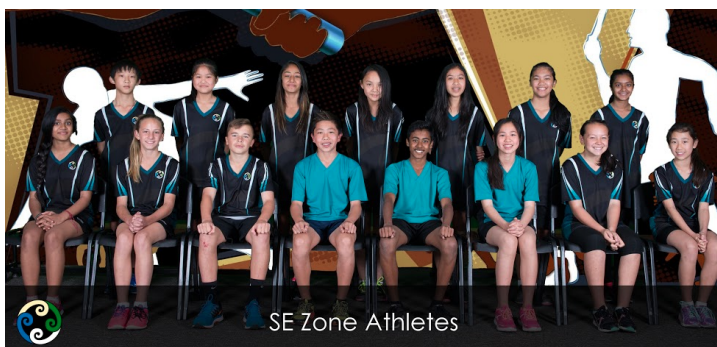
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SE Zone Athletes



SE Zone Athletes




SE Zone Athletes

Auckland Athletics Championships

Our Year 7 boys relay team, consisting of Paul Chan, Kobe Kay, Jerusalem Toilalo and Ekin Liu competed in the Auckland Athletics Championships at Mount Smart Stadium recently. The boys had a really good day finishing 4th in Auckland. A bonus to the day was the opportunity to meet some players from the Warriors, as they were also training at the grounds.





Wishing all MHJC Families A Happy Holiday Season!

2016 Start Up

Tuesday 2nd February: Compulsory 'Administration Day'

It is essential that all students attend with a parent at a time that suits, between 8:30am and 3:30pm or 5:30pm and 8:30pm. Students will not remain at school and are not required to wear uniform. Students will check Whanau and class allocation, course and DEEP selections, fee payment, ID card processing etc to ensure that lessons can begin promptly on Day 1. Returning students please go directly to your Whanau. New students please report to the school Reception.

Wednesday 3rd February - Powhiri at 8:30am

Year 7 and Year 10 students only. Year 10 students, please report to your Whanau by 8:15am. Year 7 students, please assemble at the gym at 8:30am. Parents are invited to attend the Powhiri from 8:30am, in the gym.

Thursday 4th February 8:15am

All students please report to your Whanau.

Thank you for supporting
MHJC to a successful
2015 year!

Queries?
Please contact the MHJC
Reception from
Monday 18th January
Phone 277-7881 or email
admin@mhjc.school.nz

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