

MHJC News

Issue Five

June 2009



**Mission Heights
Junior College**
“Growing
Greatness”

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Kia Ora,

I have just returned from the United States, where I was privileged to be New Zealand's representative on the Community Problem Solving evaluation team at the International Future Problem Solving World Finals.

There I witnessed the power and passion that students can display in having a significant and positive impact on their community. Our students are already showing evidence that they too can make a positive contribution to the society in which they live. They have chosen to support groups such as the Returned Services, the Salvation Army, SPCA, and Kids First Hospital. They are also addressing issues such as cyber safety, opening up the bush on our boundary as a valuable resource, traffic safety, and so much more.

Our students are not sitting back and waiting for things to happen, they are being enterprising and making things happen themselves. They have celebrated World Environmental Day with a green muffin day and will use the money raised to develop the school's, already strong, environmental focus. The student Enviro Council has been busy on a number of environmental projects within the school and Mission Heights Junior College has now officially become an Enviro School. I have been impressed with presentations students have made seeking approval to undertake their projects to support this focus. Our students have also been busy with activities such as Lit Quiz, academic competitions, sporting competitions, the Fonterra Science Road Show and Mathex. Their enthusiasm to challenge themselves is wonderful to see and should be encouraged.

We are fortunate to have, in Mission Heights Junior College, a secondary school which has been established to cater for the specific learning and development needs of students in Years 7-10. Understandably, I have been asked about the future of our students in Years 11-13. The first of our students will, in 2011, move to a state of the art purpose built senior secondary school currently under construction in Ormiston Road.

As Prime Minister John Key highlighted in his speech at our opening, research is strong on the benefits of this model of schooling. Each school can effectively target the specific learning and developmental needs of a particular age group, while maintaining a clear pathway and smooth transition between sectors. I urge parents to attend a planned public meeting of the new senior school to be held at MHJC on July 22nd. I am sure this will be an exciting opportunity to learn more about what awaits our students in Years 11 -13.

Joan Middlemiss , Principal

Coming up for our students....

Year 9 Drama performance of Romeo and Juliet 1.00 pm June 23rd
And 24th - \$2
Disco: July 2nd 7.00pm -9.30 pm , MHJC Theatre

Lit Quiz

Our inaugural entry into the International Literature event Kids Lit Quiz this year saw competitors Alex Sutton, Brianna Southgate, Helen Cao, Christopher Townsend and reserve Mitchell Farmer do well. Our first MHJC team scored only 26 points behind the eventual winners.

The students have prepared for the event during a DEEP session with our librarian, Mrs Hurst.



Family and Friends

Next meeting

7:30 pm

July 1st

MHJC Staffroom.

See you there!

Student / Parent /Teacher Conferences

We value a partnership with our parents and are pleased with the positive response to our online, real time, reporting on Mission Heights Online. We have now also begun holding parent meetings and these will continue until the end of term. Students will lead these individual conferences, as we believe it is important that students understand and can speak knowledgeably about their own learning. We are committed to ensuring that you too are fully informed about your child's learning and achievement at Mission Heights Junior College.

Any parents who have not already got their log on for mission Heights Online will be provided with this at these meetings.

Please ensure that school uniform items are clearly named.

As the weather gets colder students are wearing jackets and jumpers to school and then often removing them as the day warms up or while they are indoors. If clothing is named we can ensure it is returned when it is left behind.

School Contribution

Thank you to those families who have paid their \$250 school contribution and to those who have signed up to make regular direct credit payments towards this.

Often parents tire of continual demands from schools for them to become involved in major fundraising to support school activities but it is a fact of life that if we want to offer a high quality of education that we do need funds over and above our Operations Grant funding to make this happen. If we can encourage all families to pay the School Contribution our need to call on busy families to fundraise will be minimised.

At MHJC our contribution helps us maintain our unique personalised learning programme (DEEP) and also our high quality of ICT provision.

We ask you to make payment, in full or in installments, a priority as your children will benefit directly and substantially from this contribution of **less than 70c per day.**



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Recent Events at Mission Heights Junior College

Norm Hewitt

Well known New Zealander Norm Hewitt recently visited MHJC as an Ambassador for the SPCA to raise awareness about animal welfare.



Art students visit Art Gallery



MHJC Mathex

What a great event this was! Thank you to everyone; students, teachers and parents for making our first ever MHJC Mathex night such a resounding success.

122 MHJC students from Years 7 to 9 and invited Year 6 teams from Baverstock Oaks and Mission Heights Primary and parents competed at their respective levels to solve maths problems and race each other and the clock.

Congratulations to all our winners on the night and a special thank you to Mrs Taneja for her leadership in making this exciting evening happen.



Fonterra Science Roadshow



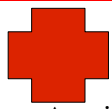
Mission Heights Junior College recently hosted the Fonterra Science Roadshow. This roadshow never fails to bring science alive and we were pleased to have the opportunity to bring this interactive science experience to our students and those of other schools in the area. Thank you to Miss Nield for co-ordinating this event.

Author Visits

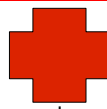
Double amputee Mark Inglis visited our school as part of the NZ Post Book Awards finalists tour. He spoke to a group of students in the library about his climb on Mt Everest and inspired us all to reach for greatness!

We were very lucky to be visited by English horror author Joseph Delaney. He spent over an hour with two English classes from Coast Whanau telling them about his writing experiences and answering their questions. He then addressed the whole school in the theatre, reading an exciting and scary excerpt from his next book.





Please Help us Keep Our School Healthy



As winter approaches and brings with it coughs and colds, we ask that you do not send your children to school when they are unwell.

If you believe there is any chance that your child or anyone in your family has contracted the H1N1 virus please keep your child at home and inform us immediately.

National Standards in Education

The Minister of Education has recently announced that from 2010, parents of children, in Years 1 to 8, will receive regular school reports showing how their child is doing against the National Standards in reading, writing and maths. These reports will be in plain language and will help parents follow their child's progress at school.

Aim of the standards

The National Standards aim to lift achievement nationally in reading, writing and maths by being clear about what students should achieve and by when, and by reporting to parents in plain language.

The Standards are currently being developed and we will keep you informed of progress with this development.

Testing

The Ministry has been clear that there will not be one national test to determine achievement against the standards. At Mission Heights Junior College we are currently using e Asttle testing to determine our students' achievement in relation to the Curriculum and for national comparisons as well as to guide our students' learning.

This tool will be one of a number used to test and report on student achievement when the standards are introduced so we are well positioned for this new initiative.

Introducing Mr Maurice Jackways



Mr Jackways has recently been appointed as the foundation Principal of the Senior High School which is being built in Ormiston Road.

Mr Jackways comes from Otago University where he has been a leadership and management advisor for new Principals. Before that Mr Jackways was Principal of Mount Aspiring College in Wanaka.

We warmly congratulate Mr Jackways on his appointment and look forward to working closely with him, his Board and staff.

Students living in the Mission Heights Junior College zone will progress to the Senior High School after completing Year 10 at MHJC

ICT Hint for Families

Having trouble seeing Mission Heights Online at home? This may be because you are using an old version of Internet Explorer.

To see our website in full colour update your internet explorer or

Download **Firefox** browser
Free At:

<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/personal.html>

A request from our Art and Technology Teachers

Can you help us with any suitable materials for use in our school programmes, such as cardboard offcuts, wallpaper, decorative papers, wool, fabric, stuffing (teflon), plastic, moulded forms / packaging, industrial offcuts suitable for sculpture eg tops, containers, ceramic tiles, PVC tubing, ply wood , old x-rays... Donated goods can be picked up.