



OUR VISION

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

Growing Greatness

Upcoming Events

Teachers' Paid Union

Meeting Tuesday Afternoon
November 20th

Year 10 Transition Visit to Ormiston Senior College

Tuesday Afternoon
November 20th (All enrolling
Year 10s to attend)

Family and Friends : 2013 Cultural Food Festival Planning meeting

Wednesday November 14
7:00 pm MHJC Staffroom

Year 6 Orientation Day:

Thursday 15th November . (All
enrolled students to attend.)

MHJC Athletics Day: Friday 16th November

MHJC Arts Festival: 19-23 November

Teacher Only Day: Monday 26th November

Prizegivings and Year 10 Graduation Tuesday 11th December

End of term 4 Tuesday 11th December

Kia Ora ,

Since my last newsletter I have had the privilege of participating in the New Zealand Principals' delegation to China organised through the Confucius Institute. This provided an opportunity to visit schools, universities, businesses and the New Zealand Embassy in addition to amazing opportunities to experience and learn about the culture and history of a rapidly changing nation which has the potential to be one of the most significant economic powerhouses during the working life of our students.

The visit challenged a number of my preconceptions about China and gave me much to think about. Again and again, in different contexts I heard the message that in the future it will be important to be "connectors" in the world of business and industry and there was a strong focus on globalisation in the schools we visited. Our students who already speak Mandarin must maintain these language skills because again, it was repeatedly stressed that those who are comfortable in both the Western and Eastern worlds and who have fluency in both languages will be well positioned to benefit both themselves and New Zealand in the future.

In the schools we visited, which it should be acknowledged were all high achieving, I did see the classes of around 40 students I had heard about. I also learned however that the teacher /student ratio in these schools was double the NZ ratio. Interestingly rather than use this extra resource for smaller class sizes teachers told us they taught, on average, only two lessons a day as compared to our four or five and therefore had more time for preparation, thorough review of student work and in class observation of their colleagues teaching, an interesting difference. I observed the whole spectrum of teaching practice, some innovative and engaging, some very traditional and repetitive.

I was surprised and delighted to learn that in one large secondary school there was a Deputy Principal whose main focus was to link with families to ensure that their children could participate fully in education whatever social or family issues they may be experiencing.

This visit was a reminder that everywhere education is changing and must do so, as the world is changing around us. If we consider the rate of change in China as an example, it is clear that those who do not adapt will be quite simply left behind.

Jean Middlemiss (Principal)

Well Known Chinese Calligrapher Visits MHJC

We were very fortunate to have a visit recently from Professor Ye Peigui a professional Chinese calligrapher and a former director of the Chinese Calligraphy Institute at the Beijing Capital Normal University. Professor Ye is a well-known artist in China. He visited students in the DEEP Calligraphy class and viewed their work. He presented prizes for the best work, the overall winner being **Elaina Hea** from 8C1. Professor Ye also presented the school with a piece of calligraphy he created for us.



We were very grateful to also receive, on the day, a generous donation of books about Chinese life, culture and history.

ICAS Results

in the last two ICAS competitions of 2012 our students have, once again, achieved some outstanding results.

Congratulations to Students who Achieved Distinction level in ICAS English:

Daniel Strong, Emma Chen, Simin Chung, Joshua Fong, Justin Tan, Shrey Varma, Courtney Powell, and Asha Shashikumar,

A further **14 students** gained a **Credit Award**

In ICAS Mathematics Special Congratulations to High Distinction Award Winners (Top1% nationally): **Aisha Koike, Victor Chua, Joshua Fong and Darrian Moodley**

Congratulations to Distinction Award Winners:

Daniel Strong, Avinash Sathiyaseelan, Justin Tan, Cecilia Wang, Atiq Koike, Louise Kim, and Neesha Kumar,

A further **17 students** gained a **Credit Award**

2013 has been a very successful year for our students participating in ICAS competitions with a number of students being recognised at our Champions Award ceremonies for achieving high Distinction or Distinction in multiple competitions.



MHJC Students Support Others in the Community

We are proud that our students show that they are good citizens as they repeatedly take on the challenge of supporting others in the community. Whether it is part of a Global Studies class, Social Enterprise or a DEEP option our students have recently been supporting organisations such as schools, Starship Hospital, Habitat for Humanity and the SPCA .

Students from the "Make a Difference" DEEP class recently provided Rongomai Primary School with 171 story books, 40 writing books and 100 pencils and also raised \$250 to support the school's breakfast programme.



Well done !

**Year 10 Drama option
perform Romeo and Juliet**



Our Year 10 Drama students put on a superb performance of an interpretation of Romeo and Juliet to end their term and their time with their drama teacher Mrs Soltis. Congratulations to everyone on an excellent performance.

MHJC Teachers and Students present at U Learn Conference

We were very proud to be represented at the U Learn Conference in the recent holidays by Mrs Blewett, Miss Kindley, Mrs Dada and students, Victor Chua, Justin Tan, Sartaj Bedi, He-Min Lee, Sanara Swarnadhipathi and Asha Shashikumar who together presented a workshop entitled '21st Century Learning and our 21st Century School'. Thanks also to Mr Doughney for his support. Feedback has been excellent and our students have since also presented to prospective applicants for teaching positions in our school.



MHJC Talent Quest

We were recently treated to a great night of varied and very high quality entertainment from the finalists in the MHJC 2012 Talent Quest. Following preliminary heats the finalists were selected to perform at the evening event which was very well attended. The acts were varied and exciting and we appreciated the participation also of talented past students who are now attending OSC. Thanks to everyone who made the night a huge success and congratulations to our winners!

First Place: **David Marlin**

Second place: **Shrey Varma**

Third Equal: **Hao Zheng and Ayesha Singh**

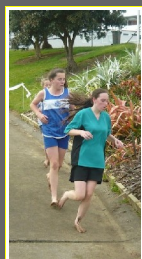


2012 Winner, David Marlin

**Congratulations to our 2012 Cross
Country Champions!**

Jayden Smith, Yr 7 Boys
Tamsyn Solomon, Yr 7 Girls
Te Kani Williams, Yr 8 Boys
Courtney Powell, Yr 8 Girls

Jerry Chen, Yr 9 Boys
Sasha Amichand, Yr 9 Girls
Ben Tarling, Yr 10 Boys
Christina Lin, Yr 10 Girls



MHJC Ballroom Dancers

10 Year 7 and 8 students, all novice dancers, competed in the inaugural New Zealand National Dancesport4Schools Competition over Labour weekend, gaining **2nd place in the team competition**. The competition was held in conjunction with the New Zealand National Dancesport Championships, in front of a full panel of qualified adjudicators.



40 Hour Famine Scholarship Day



As one of the top fundraising schools in the Upper North Island, MHJC was

selected to send three representatives to a scholarship day designed to acknowledge the successes of schools involved in the programme, develop our students as global citizens and build on their leadership potential to help with next year's programme planning. **Ely Takai**, the school's top fund raiser, **He-Min Lee**, the Year 7 top fund raiser and **Charndee Grewal** a top year 7 fund raiser were selected to attend.

Our New Look Classrooms and Playground

After the holidays we returned to a much brighter MHJC! Our classrooms had received a facelift with a brightly painted feature wall in each thanks to the fund raising efforts of our Executive Council. This was a great project and something we can enjoy on a daily basis.



The 2nd stage of our playground was also completed and now students have a huge playground to enjoy, stretching the length of the whanau buildings.



MHJC "Photo Gallery"

Orders \$10



This year, if there is sufficient interest, we are planning to produce an affordable collection of all class and 4 Cornerstones Activity photos as a memento of our 2012 year.

We have already taken many of these team and group photos and the remaining activity photos will be taken following the exams. The gallery will include places for students to collect names and autographs alongside high quality team and group photos.

Students who have made payment will receive their booklet of photos before the end of the school year. Please place orders now in your whanau with your payment.

"Art to Where?"

In the recent Wearable Art Competition held at BDSC, our DEEP Wearable Arts designers experienced success. Designers **Shenisia Gouden**, **Taraani Mohammed**, **Amanpreet Kaur** and **Bhavya Rishi** won the "Reclaim" Category



with their creation "Eau de Toilette" modelled by Shenisia.

In the "Seasonal Sensation" category, designers **Anchal Kakkar** and **Puja Ramkumar's** design took the runner up award with their creation "Venomous Pride".



Dillon Boucher runs Basketball Clinics at MHJC



NZ Breakers player Dillon Boucher has run a number of clinics for young basketball players in our MHJC gymnasium in recent weeks.

Basketball is a very popular and growing sport among our students and to have such a skilled player to work with and share skills with students has been an amazing opportunity.