

MHJC News

Issue One

March 2011



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

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Kia Ora,

We have had a very busy and positive start to the school year. Our students settled quickly and have already had many opportunities to represent their whanau and school in a range of activities. Once again we had a wonderful event with our swimming sports. Coast Whanau won the shield, largely due to their amazing participation levels.

Our Forest whanau camp was also a huge success. We greatly appreciate the contribution of our parents, teachers and Year 10 student leaders to making this a memorable occasion for our Year 7 students.

Our students increasingly understand the need for achievement across the four cornerstones, academic, sporting, cultural and leadership through service and we are impressed with the number of students who have taken on leadership roles, joined sports teams, auditioned for our major production which will happen later this year, signed up to try new activities such as debating and entered, in increasing numbers, for a range of academic competitions.

Thank you to all those parents who attended our meet the teachers evenings. We had wonderful turnout for each of the 4 whanau and it was a great opportunity to make first contact with many of our new parents. Thank you also for your great response to our Board surveys. Your feedback is important in determining how we, as a school, can go from strength to strength in the next three years and we appreciate the many submissions that have been received.

Students and parents have access to Mission Heights Online from home and school and are already making use of this. If you have any difficulties connecting or finding information please do not hesitate to contact your child's learning advisor or one of the Senior Leaders from your child's whanau.

We look forward to a very successful year in 2011, working with your family to ensure the best outcomes for all our students.

Joan Middlemiss (Principal)

Mission Heights Junior College Family and Friends

Our first meeting of the year was very well attended. This is a valuable opportunity for parents to contribute to discussion about our school.

Our Family and Friends Group meet monthly in the Mission Heights Junior College Staffroom at 7.00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Next meeting Wednesday April 6th. Please join us!

Forest Whanau Camp,

8-11 March

**Challenge, Fun,
Leadership and Learning**



Mission Heights Junior College
103 Jeffs Rd, Mission Heights.

Ph: (09) 2777881

e-mail: admin@mhjc.school.nz

www.mhjc.school.nz

"Red and Black Day" in Support of the Christchurch

Earthquake Appeal



MHJC students rallied to support fellow New Zealanders affected by the Christchurch earthquake on Red and Black Day. A muffin day and candy floss sale organised by the Executive Council, sale of food organised by Year 8 students Emily and Sheuk-Yeeng and busking by Tristan from Year 10 combined to raise over \$3000. Enterprise students are continuing to raise funds to add to money raised by last year's Enterprise groups after the first quake.



MHJC Board of Trustees Update

The Board of Trustees will, at its March meeting, formalise the co-optation of 2 new Board members, Mr Dave Foster and Mr Ratnakar Garikipati. We will have great pleasure in welcoming them to the Board and look forward to their input and expertise. Our Board members will now include:

Alanna Young, Chairperson, Ranjna Madan, Deputy Chairperson, Tougheeda Hartley, Arjun Sandhu, Dave Foster, Ratnakar Garikipati, Joan Middlemiss, Principal and Melanie Kindley, Teacher representative. The Board is grateful for the excellent response we have had to our survey. This will be invaluable in assisting us in our planning process

MHJC 2011 Swimming Sports

The 2011 Swimming Sports were once again held at Howick Intermediate Pool and were a great success. The Swimming shield was won by Coast Whanau, closely followed by Forest Whanau.



***Congratulations to our
2011 champions;
Junior Boys: Connor
Stewart,***

***Junior Girls: Tavai
Mason Wells,***

***Senior Boys:
Richard Chand***

***Senior Girls:
Navjot Kaur.***



Fees and School Contribution: Planning for easy payment!

A reminder that payment of the School Contribution helps us provide high quality education for your children. We are happy for parents to make arrangements for regular affordable direct debit payments. Any credit built up can also be used to help cover costs such as class trips, camps etc when they arise or carried over to future years. Details of how to do this, and a form to take to your bank are available from reception.

Remember that if you have paid before the 31st March your School Contribution is tax deductible in this financial year.

A Champion on our staff!

Congratulations to Miss Furlong who recently competed in the Wellington Road Race and won a Gold Medal in her division!



2011 Student Executive Council

The student Executive council is selected after applications, interviews, feedback from Year 10 students and staff and their school record of participation and service are all considered.

The Council takes on the responsibility of ensuring student voice is a key part in decision making at



MHJC. They are also role models and above all are expected to lead through service. Congratulations to our 2011 Year 10 Executive Student Council who recently completed a one day leadership training seminar at the Pakuranga Golf Club including sessions on role modelling, situational leadership and goal setting.

Pictured at left the 2011 Council. Absent Shakira Du Pille

Can we help?

There may be times when you need help with a question or concern. Please contact us.

Reception: Amy Taylor, Ph: 2777881 admin@mhjc.school.nz

Finance: Erin Ling finance@mhjc.school.nz

Principal's Secretary Pamela Lyness plyness@mhjc.school.nz

Coast Whanau: Assistant Principal, Melanie Kindley mkindley@mhjc.school.nz

Senior Leader Curriculum, Kate Lambert klambert@mhjc.school.nz

Forest Whanau: Assistant Principal, Sachida Naidu snaidu@mhjc.school.nz

Senior Leader Curriculum, Kris Blewett kblewett@mhjc.school.nz

Water Whanau: Assistant Principal, Cathy Hewlett chewlett@mhjc.school.nz

Senior Leader Curriculum, Neelam Taneja ntaneja@mhjc.school.nz

Mountains Whanau: Assistant Principal, Jayne Furlong jfurlong@mhjc.school.nz

Senior Leader Curriculum, Raeesa Dada, rdada@mhjc.school.nz

Deputy Principal: Naddy Naidoo nnaidoo@mhjc.school.nz

Principal: Joan Middlemiss jmiddlemiss@mhjc.school.nz

Lost Property

If your child comes home and tells you they have lost an item please do check at reception before you buy a replacement.

We have many items of clothing which we have not been able to return to students as they are not named. Naming items helps us quickly return them when they are found around the school.

Absence Texts

A reminder that if your child is not marked present in session 1 and we have not had prior notification of absence, we will send you a text asking you to confirm that they are away with your knowledge.

Please do respond to these texts as soon as possible as this is a safety measure to safeguard your child.

It is very helpful if you call the absence line

2505600

early in the morning to inform us if you know that your child will be absent. You can leave a message if you are calling before school.

Staff Professional Development

Every Wednesday morning teachers have been working hard in the classroom ensuring they remain at the forefront of best practice. Teachers begin their professional learning at 8:00 am and the response from them has been extremely positive.

Thank you to our Board for their forward thinking in providing this opportunity. We also appreciate the understanding of parents. Students who must come to school are, of course, supervised for independent study by Learning Assistants and this is working very well to date.



How to find out what is happening at MHJC?

Each day our "e updates" are screened in the whanau areas at school to inform students of opportunities that are available to them. These can also be accessed by students and parents through Mission Online via the internet at home.

www.mhjc.school.nz

and then log in for full access to E- Updates and important information about course work, assessments, reports, and E AsTTle. Contact us if you need help logging in.

Traffic Safety

We have 1000 students leaving the two Mission Heights Schools at the end of each day. Clearly their safety is our first priority and because of this we are attempting to separate pedestrians from vehicle traffic. For this reason we are asking those using cars to arrive later, after most of the pedestrians have gone, and are locking the gates to assist us in achieving this. We are also working with the authorities to try to have the pedestrian crossing moved to a safer location and we are open to other suggestions also. Please be patient as we refine our systems as student safety is very important to us.



Tuesday Tours of MHJC

Please remember that parents and other visitors are welcome to tour our school each Tuesday morning at 10:00 am. Just come to reception.